

Governing Body Report

Report of the Executive Director Families and Wellbeing

GOVERNOR TRAINING

1. Recommended actions:

To note the available training for governors in the spring term and agree attendance

2. Summary of Report

As the educational landscape continues to change it continues to be crucial that governors and trustees keep themselves up to date around key issues. All training dates for the coming term are included below.

MONTH	TIME	COURSE TITLE	Venue
JANUARY			
Tuesday, 28 th	6.00pm – 8.30pm	Knowing your School through Governor Visits	Woolston Neighbourhood Hub
FEBRUARY			
Monday, 3 rd	6.00pm – 8.30pm	Governors Role in Setting & Monitoring Vision, Ethos & Strategic Direction	Woolston Neighbourhood Hub
Tuesday, 4 th	6.00pm – 8.30pm	New Governor Induction (Part 1)	Woolston Neighbourhood Hub
Tuesday, 11 th	6.00pm – 8.30pm	New Governor Induction (Part 2)	Woolston Neighbourhood Hub
Tuesday, 25 th	6.00pm – 8.30pm	Governors' Role in Health & Safety	Woolston Neighbourhood Hub
Thursday, 27 th	6.00pm – 8.30pm	The Governors' Role in Special Education Needs & Disability (SEND)	Woolston Neighbourhood Hub
MARCH			
Tuesday, 3 rd	6.00pm – 8.30pm	The Governors' Role in Understanding the Quality of Teaching & Learning	Woolston Neighbourhood Hub
Wednesday, 4 th	6.00pm – 8.30pm	Governors' Role in Safeguarding	Woolston Neighbourhood Hub
Wednesday, 11 th	6.00pm – 8.30pm	Understanding Assessment & Data	Woolston Neighbourhood Hub
Thursday, 12 th	6.00pm – 8.30pm	Introduction to the Role of Chair	Woolston Neighbourhood Hub

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Monday, 23 rd	6.00pm – 8.30pm	Leadership Development for Chairs and Experienced Governors	Woolston Neighbourhood Hub
APRIL			
Thursday, 2 nd	6.00pm – 8.30pm	The Board's Role in Financial Scrutiny & Ensuring Value for Money	Woolston Neighbourhood Hub

If you or any of your Governors wish to attend any of the above training courses please contact your school who will book you a space via Warrington Training Hub.

Training will take place at:
Woolston Neighbourhood Hub, Hall Road, Woolston, WA1 4PN

3. Sources of Further Information

My School Services: <http://www.myschoolservices.co.uk/Search/governor>

A synopsis of what will be covered at each of the sessions can be found at the back of the report.

4. Contacts

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Session Title	Session Summary
Knowing your school through governor visits	<p>This session considers the role of governor visits in effective monitoring, including use of link governors/trustees to maximise their impact, focusing on the following key issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding how governors'/trustees' visits can add value to governance • To share current practice around visits • To consider the impact of visits and how this can be improved
Governors role in setting & monitoring vision, ethos & strategic direction	<p>By the end of the session governors will have enhanced their understanding of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What 'vision', 'ethos' and 'strategic direction' mean • The role of the board in setting and monitoring vision, ethos and strategic direction • What 'working strategically' means in practice <p>The similarities and differences between the role of the board and the role of the executive leadership</p>
Induction - part 1 of 2	<p>Aimed at new governors/trustees and those with less than twelve months' experience, the session covers the following key issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the role of the board? • What is 'effective governance'? • What does Ofsted hold boards accountable for? • Effective meetings
Induction - part 2 of 2	<p>Aimed at new governors / trustees and those with less than twelve months' experience, the session covers the following key issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visits to school • Being Strategic: What does it mean in practice? • Monitoring and evaluation: how can the board hold its school(s) to account? • Accountability: how should governors/trustees fulfil their accountabilities to stakeholders?
The governors' role in special education needs and disability (SEND)	<p>This session will enable governors/trustees to increase their knowledge and confidence in SEND and in ensuring that all children in their school have equitable access to the provision of high-quality education. Governors/trustees will leave the training with an understanding of recent changes in SEND legislation and the requirements on schools, focusing on the following key issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the identification of children and young people with SEN and disabilities • impact of teaching, learning and assessment of children and young people with SEN and disabilities • effective monitoring of outcomes of children and young people with SEN and disabilities

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<p>The governors' role in understanding the quality of teaching and learning</p>	<p>This session aims to clarify what boards should know about teaching, learning and assessment, and how they can develop that knowledge whilst remaining strategic, regardless of educational experience. The session focuses on the following key areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is Ofsted looking for? • “I’m not a teacher, how can I make a judgment about teaching?” • How does the governing board know about the quality of teaching, learning and assessment? • Practical approaches to developing governors'/trustees' knowledge and confidence
<p>Governors role in safeguarding</p>	<p>The session supports governors'/trustees' understanding of their responsibilities for and role in keeping children safe, focusing on the following key areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the legal context for safeguarding • the difference between safeguarding and child protection • the signs and symptoms of child abuse • the issues in school that can give rise to concerns a child is being abused • the responsibilities placed on governors/trustees through legislation, statutory guidance and inspection frameworks • questions to ask to evaluate safeguarding practices • what contributes to a vigilant culture in schools • self-assessment of safeguarding policies, procedures and practices
<p>Understanding Assessment and Data</p>	<p>This session will support governors to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recognise the key changes to assessment across all phases • understand the range of statutory assessment data that is available (5 – 18 years) • appreciate how this information can be used to support school improvement including at key points of transition • develop confidence in asking the ‘right’ questions about performance data
<p>Introduction to the role of chair</p>	<p>Aimed at chairs, vice chairs, committee chairs and prospective chairs the session focuses on developing the leadership role of the chair and lead governors including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • building and developing the team • leading the relationship between the board and the executive leaders • leading effective meetings • board self-evaluation • the role of lead governors in improving outcomes for children and young people
<p>Leadership development for chairs and</p>	<p>The programme is designed to give experienced governors/trustees a greater understanding of the elements that contribute to effective governance in a learning environment that recognises and builds on the experience that delegates bring.</p>

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experienced governors	The programme focusses on effective meetings, building and supporting a team, formulating and implementing a strategic school plan.
The Board's Role in Financial Scrutiny and Ensuring Value for Money	<p>By the end of the session governors/trustees will understand how school/academy budgets are generated and how they can effectively monitor the school's finances. The session focuses on the following key issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Where the money comes from• Different types of funding available (including pupil premium, sports grant, SEN)• Annual budget cycle (maintained schools and academies)• Financial reporting and budget monitoring• Benchmarking• Key accounting terminology• Financial roles and responsibilities of the governing body
Governors' role in health and safety	<p>This course covers the basics of governors'/trustees' responsibilities in respect of health and safety law in Schools. The course covers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the legal framework,• what a health and safety policy looks like and why it is different from other school policies• two specific areas where schools/ governors may feel they need more information:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ school trips○ building work (including asbestos in schools) <p>Attendees will gain a clearer picture of how health and safety law is applied and their role in ensuring that their school effectively manages this critical area.</p>