

## Termly Information Report

Dear Governors

Welcome to the new academic year which we all know from past experience will be full of change. We in governor support would like to reiterate our commitment to supporting you in this highly valued role of governor and hope you find the information contained in this report helpful. Your governor support officer/clerk will keep you updated with any further changes at your termly meetings.

### 1. Update on Service Provision

We are very pleased to inform you that at the end of July Mags Colley, who many of you will already know, was successfully appointed as the new substantive Head of Achievement, we offer our congratulations to Mags and look forward to working with her. Mags will take up her post later this term following a handover and transition period. Chris Fallon will remain with us until Christmas to support this transition and pick up aspects of the assistant director post that we have been unable to fill. Ian McAlister, our senior secondary improvement partner, will continue with us for the whole of the new academic year working on average three days a week.

The start of the new term will see the implementation of the revised school effectiveness strategy which will be sent out to headteachers shortly. Members of the Achievement Team will be having detailed discussions with headteacher colleagues about the pupil outcomes achieved this summer, Chairs of governors or a representative from the governing body may well be involved in this process at some point. Initial analysis of the results this year is pointing to an improved picture in writing at KS2 though we have seen a fall in reading scores and a slight fall in maths outcomes. At GCSE the picture is disappointing with schools falling below the outcomes they were predicting. Overall the 5A\*-C(English/Maths) figure looks to be lower than 2014. A fuller picture will be shared as schools and members of the standards team develop a better understanding of the data over the coming weeks. Governors will no doubt be discussing these at their regular Raising Achievement Committee meetings.

Regular updates on progress with the LA School Effectiveness Strategy, MAP and any new initiatives will be given at the Governors' Termly Forum and I would encourage as many of you as possible to attend these. As well as training opportunities offered through the Governors' Training Programme, Governors will be invited to attend/partake in LA Bi-annual Conferences, Briefings and Leadership Network meetings, some dates are already included in the Training Programme other dates will be circulated to you via email.

The LA have also established a Deployment Group who will be considering the support needs of schools as part of this process. If any governing body feels they would benefit from any additional support please contact me so we can discuss how we can best help and support governors.

Overleaf are some updates/reminders for governors to consider this term, once again your support officer/clerk will be there to help and guide you as required.

## 2. Accountability of Governing Bodies

Changes to the School governance (Constitution)(England) Regulations 2012 (the “2012 Constitution Regulations”) and the School Governance (Federations) (England) Regulations 2012 (the “2012 Federation Regulations”) as amended by the School Governance (Constitution and Federations) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014.

This guidance is about the constitution of governing bodies and their size, membership and skills. All governing bodies of maintained schools are required to be constituted under the School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2012 by 1 September 2015 and guidance was further updated in August 2015. The document is available on the DfE website at

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/454069/The\\_Constitution\\_of\\_Governing\\_Bodies\\_of\\_Maintained\\_Schools\\_Stat\\_Guidance\\_Aug\\_2015\\_final.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/454069/The_Constitution_of_Governing_Bodies_of_Maintained_Schools_Stat_Guidance_Aug_2015_final.pdf)

**Register of Interest/conflict of loyalty** - One of the key changes last term was the requirement for governing bodies to include “conflict of loyalty” and from **1 September 2015** publish on their school website up-to-date details of its governance arrangements in a *readily accessible form*. (*Readily accessible means that the information should be on a webpage without the need to download or open a separate document*) (Academies already have a duty to publish a register of interests on their websites). This should include:

- The structure and remit of the governing body and any committees, and the full names of the chair of each;
- For each governor who has served at any point over the past 12 months:
  - Their full names, date of appointment, term of office, date they stepped down (where applicable), who appointed them (in accordance with the governing body’s instrument of government)
- Relevant business and pecuniary interests (as recorded in the register of interests) including:
  - Governance roles in other educational institutions;
  - Any material interests arising from relationships between governors or relationships between governors and school staff (including spouses, partners and close relatives); and
- Their attendance record at governing body and committee meetings over the last academic year.

Governing bodies should also publish this information for associate members, making clear whether they have voting rights on any of the committees they serve on.

Governing bodies should make it clear in their code of conduct that this information will be published on their governors and, where applicable, their associate members. Any governor failing to reveal information to enable the governing body to fulfil their responsibilities may be in breach of the code of conduct and as a result be bringing the governing body into disrepute. In such cases the governing body should consider suspending the governor.

## 3. Governors’ Annual Statement to Parents

The revised handbook now includes the requirement for Governing Bodies to ‘publish an annual statement to parents setting out the key issues that have been faced and addressed by the governing body over the last year, including an assessment of the impact of the governing

body on the school'. This is included in the 2013 (Roles, Procedures and Allowances) (England) Regulations 2013.

A template is available on our website or from your Support Officer/Clerk to help and if you have not already seen the revised handbook, a copy can be found of the DfE website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/governors-handbook--3>

#### **4. Prevent Duty**

From 1 July 2015 all schools registered early years childcare providers and registered later years childcare providers are subject to a duty under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, in the exercise of their functions, to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”. The statutory guidance refers to the importance of Prevent awareness training to equip staff to identify children at risk. Schools are best placed to assess their training needs but suggest as a minimum the Designated Safeguarding Lead undertakes Prevent awareness training and is able to provide advice and support to other members of staff. Training to raise governors awareness is available on the 1 October 2015 please see the training programme for further details.

#### **5. School Complaints Procedure**

The DfE have issued a revised version of the School Complaints Toolkit and can be downloaded from [www.gov.uk/government/publications](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications). The main change to the procedure is the move from a three stage process to a four stage process, with a new stage 3 (formal stage) being a complaint heard by Chair of Governors. The revised School Complaints Procedure will be on the termly agenda for governing bodies to considered further.

#### **6. Knowing your school**

The National Governors' Association (NGA) has a series of publications designed to help Governors and encourage them to appropriately challenge in order to hold school leaders to account, be that in a Committee meeting or full governing Body meeting.

The publications are free on their website and each one usefully has a series of questions to help Governors with a particular aspect of the school/academy. These include

- RAISEonline for Governors of Primary Schools; NGA with RM Education
- RAISEonline for Governors of Secondary Schools; NGA with RM Education
- Getting to know your parents: NGA with Kirkland Rowell Surveys
- Governors and staff performance: NGA with COGS

There are also eight publications based around effective governance and they are:

1. The right people around the table
2. Understanding role and responsibilities
3. Good chairing
4. Good relationships based on trust
5. Professional clerking
6. Knowing your school – the data, the staff, the parents, the children, the community
7. Committed to asking challenging questions

8. Confident to have courageous conversations in the interest of the children and young people

The publications can be found on the NGA website at  
<http://www.nga.org.uk/Guidance/Holding-your-school-to-account.aspx>

## **7. Key questions a Multi Academy Trust Board should ask itself**

As part of a review of the existing “twenty questions” for Governing Bodies of maintained schools the All Party Parliamentary Group on Education governance and Leadership also produced a list of questions for a Multi Academy Trust Board both of which can be found on the NGA website at

[http://www.nga.org.uk/About-Us/APPG/Home/Twenty-Questions-\(1\).aspx](http://www.nga.org.uk/About-Us/APPG/Home/Twenty-Questions-(1).aspx)  
<http://www.nga.org.uk/Guidance/Workings-Of-The-Governing-Body/Governance-Tools/Twenty-Questions.aspx>

It is recommended that the Governing Body:

- a) Note the content of the report;
- b) Ensures:
  - Required information is on the school website for the 1 September 2015
  - An Annual Statement to Parents is produced and placed on the school website
  - The School Complaints Procedure is revised and adopted

Finally can I remind you that governors are welcome to include any items on the full governing body or committee agendas. You can do this by contacting your Chair, Head Teacher or your governor support officer/clerk as follows

Jackie White, Manager Governor Development Service - Tel: 01642 201988  
e-mail: [jackie\\_white@middlesbrough.gov.uk](mailto:jackie_white@middlesbrough.gov.uk)

Richard Painter, Recruitment and Retention Officer – Tel 01642 201985  
Email [Richard\\_painter@middlesbrough.gov.uk](mailto:Richard_painter@middlesbrough.gov.uk)

Colette Hogarth - Full time governor support officers/clerk – Tel 01642 201987  
Email: [Colette\\_hogarth@middlesbrough.gov.uk](mailto:Colette_hogarth@middlesbrough.gov.uk)

Gill Nicholson – Full time governor support officers/clerk – Tel 01642 201801  
Email [gill\\_nicholson@middlesbrough.gov.uk](mailto:gill_nicholson@middlesbrough.gov.uk)

Ann-Marie Wilson – Part time governor support officers/clerk – Tel 01642 201986  
Email [ann-marie\\_wilson@middlesbrough.gov.uk](mailto:ann-marie_wilson@middlesbrough.gov.uk)

Nicola Garth – Part time governor support officers/clerk – Tel 01642 201986  
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