

# Governor School Improvement Update Spring Term 2020

Welcome to the North Yorkshire school improvement spring term update for all governors. We hope that you find it informative and helpful and would value your support in sharing it with fellow governors in order that it reaches as many colleagues as possible.

## Summer Term G SIN meetings - Governor School Improvement Networks

All governors from LA maintained schools and academies are also invited to attend our Governor School Improvement Network meetings which will be held in the summer term. Bookings for the April and May local meetings are currently open – bookings can be made via your school office.

Date	Venue	Course Code
28 April 2020	Allerton Court Hotel, Northallerton	SI-0420-T002
5 May 2020	The Rendezvous Hotel, Skipton	SI-0520-T001
7 May 2020	Selby High School	SI-0520-T002
12 May 2020	Pavilions of Harrogate	SI-0520-T003
14 May 2020	The Downe Arms Hotel, Wykeham	SI-0520-T004

### The network meetings will run from 5.00pm to 8.00pm:

5:00pm - Promoting Inclusion, Reducing Exclusion: The Vital Role of the School Governor - *We are committed to making our schools more inclusive places. To do so, we must support every leader to adopt and embrace a positive and supportive ethos that creates an environment that enhances the mental health of every child and adult in school. It is clear that building supportive relationships is key and so this workshop will explore the crucial role of the Governing Board in achieving this. When inclusion fails, the Governing Board has a crucial role to play in the statutory exclusion process and so this workshop will also provide some practical support for governors in managing this.*

6:00pm - Updates and news items which will cover Ofsted inspections, data, and the school funding landscape.

## Ofsted Annual Report 2018-19



This report from Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, Amanda Spielman, has recently been published and can be accessed at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofsted-annual-report-201819-education-childrens-services-and-skills>

SEND is a key feature of the report which reminds governing boards that they are responsible for the culture and ethos of their school. An effective governing board is one that sets a culture which is welcoming and provides an environment in which all pupils can thrive and reach their full potential. In order to this, each governing board needs to know that pupils with SEND are getting the best possible opportunity and that outcomes reflect this. It is imperative that the full governing board see SEND as their collective responsibility and do not leave it solely to the SEND link governor or trustee.

## Get Information About Schools

The GIAS website states that 'all maintained school governing bodies and academy trusts have a **legal duty** to provide details of governors for publication' on its 'get information about schools' website. We have noticed that there are a number of schools where this information is missing or incomplete. You do not need a login to check if your school's information is meeting this legal requirement. <https://get-information-schools.service.gov.uk/> Please let your head teacher/school administrator know if this information needs updating - through DfE Sign In.

## Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education is becoming statutory for all schools in September 2020 – is your school ready?

The government announced that all schools will have to be delivering RSE and Health Education from September 2020 but schools have been encouraged to adopt the new curriculum early from September 2019.

### The key differences for your school may be:

“a planned programme of lessons” delivered in a “carefully sequenced way”	• RSE/PSHE is timetabled in <u>all</u> year groups
“a strong curriculum” which builds on “the knowledge pupils have previously acquired”	• The curriculum is responsive and relevant to identified pupil needs
“schools should have the same high expectations of the quality of pupils’ work” as for other curriculum areas	• Progress in RSE/PSHE is reviewed and assessment opportunities are built in
should be properly “resourced, staffed and timetabled” with a dedicated “subject lead”	• Staff delivering RSE are trained and feel confident and supported to deliver a carefully planned programme

Parents/Carers do need to be consulted about the curriculum but within the framework that relationships education and health education will be statutory for all pupils. The government have developed some supporting materials to work in partnership with parents/carers.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-sex-and-health-education-guides-for-schools>

The full guidance document can be accessed at -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education>

### Ofsted Requirements

As well as the statutory aspects of a well-planned and effective Personal, Social, Health Education (PSHE) curriculum inclusive of the statutory RSE and Health Education components this curriculum will also support the personal development judgement by Ofsted and Ofsted are doing PSHE subject specific deep dives.

The key roles and responsibilities for Governors as set out in the document include:

- all pupils make progress in achieving the expected educational outcomes;
- the subjects are well led, effectively managed and well planned;
- the quality of provision is subject to regular and effective self-evaluation;
- teaching is delivered in ways that are accessible to all pupils with SEND;
- clear information is provided for parents on the subject content and the right to request that their child is withdrawn;
- the subjects are resourced, staffed and timetabled in a way that ensures that the school can fulfil its legal obligations.
- Foundation governors and trustees of faith academy trusts will also have wider responsibilities in relation to maintaining and developing the religious ethos of the schools.
- The school has a RSE policy that have been developed in consultation with the wider community.

### NYCC School Improvement Guidance Documents, Support and Training

The School Improvement Team have a range of guidance documents to support schools, including the NYCC PSHE entitlement framework which is fully inclusive of all the statutory requirements, and the RSE guidance for schools.

<https://cyps.northyorks.gov.uk/health-wellbeing-pshe>

Training for schools to access :

Date	Venue	Course Code
9 March 2020	Ripon Community House, Ripon	SI-0320-T006
29 April 2020	The Rendezvous Hotel, Skipton	SI-0420-T009
10 June 2020	Pavilions of Harrogate	SI-0620-T002
8 <sup>th</sup> July 2020	Pavilions of Harrogate	SI-0720-T001



Each term we run a PSHE network meeting for both primary and secondary schools to keep schools up to date on all things PSHE and provide workshops on a range of topic areas.

If you would like any specific support for your school / cluster of schools please contact, Clare Barrowman, Senior Health and Wellbeing Adviser on [Clare.Barrowman@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:Clare.Barrowman@northyorks.gov.uk) .

## Investigating School Complaints



Hopefully this is something that your governing board will rarely have to contend with. In order to ensure that process runs as smoothly as possible we recommend that Governing Boards:

- adopt the Department for Education model policy (which must be personalised for your school) and best practice guidance  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-complaints-procedures>;
- review the complaints policy annually at the beginning of each academic year;
- identify a designated complaint governor;
- identify members who could form a complaint panel; and
- enter into a collaborative arrangement with another school to support the complaint process.

A school does not have to be in a formal collaboration in order to have a collaborative agreement for governor panels in place. However, having a written agreement is good practice. A model agreement can be found at  
<https://cyps.northyorks.gov.uk/governorsupport>

You might need to call on additional governors to support stage 2 of the process. The Local Authority (and Diocese if relevant) could help to source governors to provide this support.

Our Governor Support Service are looking to establish a standing list of governors who would be willing, scheduling and other commitments permitted, to support other schools to resolve complaints.

### ***We need your help!***

If you are willing to be included on such a list please could you register your interest by e-mailing  
[governor.support@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:governor.support@northyorks.gov.uk) .

It is our intention to offer a workshop at the Autumn Term Governor School Improvement Network 2020 exploring a range of complaints scenarios and ways in which they may be investigated. Dates and venues will be available soon.

NYCCs Legal and Democratic team can support schools by acting as an independent investigator to a complaints appeal panel. Further information can be found at  
<https://www.nyeducationsservices.co.uk/services/legal-services>

We are running complaints training in Northallerton and Scarborough in April and June 2020.

## Governance Leadership Development Programme

The DfE is funding a governance leadership development programme for up to two participants from each governing board. The National Governors Association is one of the approved providers and is planning to launch the Development for Chairs programme in North Yorkshire very soon. The programme is aimed at chairs, vice-chairs, committee chairs and aspiring chairs and is designed to further develop governing skills, knowledge and confidence.

Further details of the programme are available at [Leading Governance](#).

***Please also use this link to register your interest as soon as possible if you would like to take part – this will assist with the planning and location of sessions.***

Funded by



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for Education

## School Resource Management Adviser evaluation (SRMA) for academies

The Department for Education has released an evaluation of the SRMA programme aimed specifically at school trusts. The evaluation gives an expert view on school resources management working with academy trusts and has indicated that SRMAs have engaged with governing boards in the pursuit of improving their arrangements and oversight of finance. The full evaluation document can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-resource-management-adviser-srma-pilot-evaluation>.

The Governor Support team are running the following training courses across the county. Places are still available so if you are interested in attending please book a place via your school office.

3 March and 31 March 2020	Introduction to Governance Parts 1 and 2	SI-0320-T003	Selby
5 March and 26 March 2020	Introduction to Governance Parts 1 and 2	SI-0350-T004	Harrogate
9 March 2020	Chairing the Governing Board	SI-0320-T005	Boroughbridge
23 April 2020	Complaints training for schools	SI-0420-T001	Northallerton
28 April – 14 May	Governor School Improvement Networks	See page 1	Various locations
18 May and 16 June 2020	Introduction to Governance Parts 1 and 2	SI-0520-T005	Skipton
21 May and 18 June 2020	Introduction to Governance Parts 1 and 2	SI-0520-T006	Scarborough
5 June 2020	Complaints training for schools	SI-0620-T039	Scarborough
7 July 2020	Headteacher Appraisal	SI-0720-T005	Boroughbridge
14 July 2020	Headteacher Appraisal	SI-0720-T006	Selby



### Head Teacher Performance Management

A reminder that HTPM is an annual process that governors have a statutory duty to put in place with the support of an external adviser. Many schools choose for their 12-month cycle to take place in the first half of the autumn term and to support this we are running HT Appraisal courses in July 2020 (see table above).

### Senior Education Advisers

Following our school improvement restructure from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 each LA maintained school has a named adviser (SEA). Following an SEA visit, a ROV (record of visit) will be sent to the HT and CoG, and key actions from the visits should be shared with all governors. Your CoG (or another governor if the CoG is not available) is invited to attend part or all of a SEA visit when it is being arranged by your HT and SEA.

### Support for Governors

For further information and advice please visit the governance pages on the Children and Young People's website at <https://www.cyps.northyorks.gov.uk>

The DfE's full range of guidance, resources and updates are available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/local-authority-maintained-schools-governance> (maintained schools) or <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/academy-trusts-governance> (academies)



### Who we are

**Antonia Praud – Governance Officer**

**Elaine Trehitt – Governance Officer**

**Chrissy Richardson – Head of Clerking Service**

**Lindsay Miller – Senior Education Adviser**

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