

Welcome to the latest edition of the North Yorkshire School Improvement Service update for governors. We hope that you find it informative and useful. We welcome any feedback that you may have.

Essential Spring Term Governor Business

Agenda Items for the Spring Term may include:

- Review of Progress against the milestones in the School Improvement/Development Plan
- Receive and review the Summary SEF (if applicable)
- Head teacher's report to the Board (this may include a number of these items: Attendance figures; Exclusion update, Update on cohorts including vulnerable students; Racist incidents, incidents of bullying; Staffing changes, for example maternity leave, resignations, vacancies)
- Receive a pupil data report (Attainment and progress in line with national data, similar schools and against school targets and taking into account different pupil group)
- Curriculum Update
- SEND Update
- Safeguarding/ Child Protection Update
- Update on Pupil Premium, Sports Premium, and the Recovery grant
- Update information on how your school is complying with the public sector equality duty (this has to be updated at least annually with equality objectives needing to be published at least once every four years).
- Consider and agree the start budget for the following year.
- Complete the SFVS (maintained schools) and submit to the local authority by the 31st March.
- Make sure that the gender pay gap information is updated and published where applicable.
- Access financial benchmarking information (can be anytime but is usually in the spring term).
- Access, review and discuss a termly premises and health and safety report
- Ensure that the single central record is up-to-date and current.
- Be assured that the census information is updated as appropriate.
- Review contracts schedule and any contract renewals/ tender documents
- Approve Policies
- Consider risk assessments and school visits (if need board approval)
- Convene an admissions panel and follow appropriate guidance (VA, trust schools and academies only)
- Confirm a mid-year review (Head teacher performance management)

Ofsted are to receive an additional £24 million to ensure EVERY school is inspected by September 2025



Ofsted is to inspect all of England's schools and colleges in an attempt to gauge how well the education system is recovering after the pandemic.

More than 24,000 schools and 335 further-education providers will be inspected at least once, including last term's inspections, by summer 2025.

The Education Secretary says this will give parents an "up-to-date picture".

All college inspections from September 2022 to September 2025 will be full and graded and are expected to be enhanced to take account of local skills needs.

However schools will continue to receive either a section 5 or a section 8 inspection, depending on the length of time since their last visit and Ofsted's wider risk assessment process.

It is anticipated that the number of schools graded as "outstanding" nationally will be reduced significantly.

Amanda Spielman, HM Chief Inspector, said:

"I am pleased that we will now be able to reach all schools, colleges and apprenticeship providers by summer 2025. Schools and colleges had worked tirelessly at a time when education had been seriously disrupted"

She added: "Children only get one chance at school. Everyone working in education must do everything they can to give this generation the best possible chance to fulfil its potential.

Ofsted will play its part - by giving parents and learners up-to-date information and by helping schools and colleges shape their plans."

School's Financial Value Standard (SFVS)

It is a statutory requirement for maintained schools to complete the SFVS annually and the deadline for the next submission is 31 March 2022. The SFVS has a series of self-assessment questions and governors are required to be involved in the completion of the report to assure themselves, and the LA, that robust financial processes and procedures are in place.

It is for individual boards to decide if the first draft is completed, with the support of staff in school, by the full board, the finance committee or a nominated governor. The SFVS should be reviewed and approved at a full board meeting before submission. Further guidance can be found on the DfE website [here](#).

Governors may also find the [Schools financial benchmarking dashboard](#) helpful. This enables you to see how your school's financial data compares to other schools.

Related Party transactions

Schools are now also required to complete a termly schedule which details any related party transactions which have occurred in the previous term.

A related party transaction is one where a contract is awarded to a person or body that has close links with the persons awarding the contract.

It is intended to support open and transparent procurement processes, and to ensure that any potential conflicts of interest are adequately and appropriately managed.

If a member of the governing board or a member of staff, (or a close relative of such a person) may have a stake in a company or organisation bidding for a contract to be awarded by the school then they must declare this as an interest and take no part in the procurement process.

Schools will also need to report related party transactions through their annual SFVS submission.

Schools can contact their FMS Support Officer with any queries with regard to the completion and submission of the related party transactions return.

The DfE guidance can be found in the [SFVS checklist guidance document](#).



Department
for Education
Updates

Updated statutory guidance

The DfE has issued a long collection of all the statutory guidance it has issued to schools in recent times. See <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statutory-guidance-schools>

Teaching a broad and balanced curriculum for education recovery.

The DfE has updated its optional guidance for school leaders and staff in reception, and key stages 1 to 3, who are responsible for the curriculum and its teaching". For further information see

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/teaching-a-broad-and-balanced-curriculum-for-education-recovery>

COVID -19

The DfE continues to update its guidance for schools in line with the latest government guidance. Please click [here](#) to access the latest document.

It has also been confirmed that the [COVID-19 workforce fund](#) has been re-introduced until 18 February 2022 to help schools cover the cost of staff absences relating to COVID.

Launch of the new Governor Support Service Level Agreement – April 2022

Moving forward, the Local Authority is amending its approach to governance advice and support and this will become a traded offer through our Governance SLA. Whilst the SLA will be the main approach to advice and support, the LA will continue to meet its statutory duties in relation to governance.

This new annual SLA will provide access to governance advice, support and training from the team and also includes access to a range of e-training modules. This will be useful to new and experienced governors wishing to develop their knowledge and skills

The SLA includes:

- Advice and support on governance matters from our Governance Officers
- Access to our training programme
- Access to a digital governance toolkit
- Half termly updates
- Access to Modern Governor for all governors – a comprehensive suite of online CPD courses

Please speak to your school's Relationship Manager for further information, or purchase on NYES SLA Online.

National Leaders of Governance Support for Schools

The National Governance Association (NGA) is offering **fully funded support** to schools with a current judgement of 'requires improvement' for leadership and management. This support is commissioned through the LA or Diocese and an NLG will work with your board to undertake an external review of governance, along with a follow up session to review impact. There is funding currently available for eligible schools, but it is limited. It is good practice for all boards to review practices periodically and an NLG external review can also be accessed by all schools at a cost. For more details please contact governor.support@northyorks.gov.uk.

Succession planning: preparing your board for the future 22 March 2022

In order to support governing boards in developing and planning future leadership, the NGA will once again be hosting a webinar for North Yorkshire governors. We are pleased to let you know that this interactive session will be led by Simon Richards, Regional Governance Development Lead at NGA and will be based on NGA's guidance to support succession planning.

The aims of the session are to:

- Understand the importance and principles of succession planning
- Define an effective culture for succession
- Reflect on barriers to succession and develop a succession strategy

All governors are welcome to attend. Places can be booked through NYES/SLA online via the school office.



Governor Training – the courses listed below are currently available for booking

Introduction to Governance: introducing new governors to the principles of good governance and enabling governors to understand their duties and responsibilities.	23 March and 27 April 2022	18:00 - 20:00
	11 May and 8 June 2022	17:30 – 19:30
School complaints: an overview for all governors and staff	22 June 2022	10:00 – 11:00
School complaints: a focus on investigations	2 March 2022	18:00 – 19:00
	6 July 2022	10:00 – 11:00
Governor Panel training: staff hearings and appeals	8 March 2022	17:00 – 20:00
Being an effective chair: understanding the requirements of the role of chairing and strategies for ensuring that the board is effective	16 March 2022	09:30 – 12:00
	8 July 2022	09:30 – 12:00
Succession Planning: preparing your board for the future (NGA)	22 March 2022	16:00 – 20:00
Ofsted for Governors: an overview webinar highlighting the key information that governors should consider with regard to inspection	14 March, 25 March, 5 May, 6 June 2022	TBA

Further information on all of the courses can be found on the [NYES](#) website. Please liaise with colleagues in your school office if you wish to reserve a place at any of the courses.

Boards purchasing the Governance Support SLA will also have access to Modern Governor – a digital platform giving access to over 70 online learning modules designed to develop and support your governance role.

Greener Governance Campaign

The DfE have recently set out their vision for all young people to be taught about the importance of conserving and protecting the planet through their [Sustainability and Climate Change draft strategy for education and children's services](#).



In line with this, the National Governance Association (NGA) has launched a [Greener Governance campaign](#) which aims to ensure that all schools have a strategy for their contribution to environmental sustainability and to equip governing boards to play their role in overseeing this work. In the current academic year, boards are being asked to make the Greener Governance pledge to:

- reduce carbon at your school or trust
- put your school's contribution to environmental sustainability on the agenda
- ensure a plan is developed to make this happen in 2022

To help boards with this, NGA have been working with the National Association of Environmental Education (NAEE) to update their [environmental sustainability guidance](#) which encourages boards to adopt environmental sustainability as a strategic priority for their school, outlines the development of a whole school approach, and how to lead change and engage stakeholders.



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