

EES Governance Support – Autumn Term Update

We are delighted that nearly 300 schools have already subscribed to the service (**NB - this is different to a subscription to Governor Training**)

Here's an update on the service - new developments are shown in red.

Up-to-date advice and guidance for governors through the working hours helpline

Our top 5 queries this term

1. Dealing with a tricky parental complaint
2. Governor misconduct – what can we do?
3. Safeguarding responsibilities
4. Help! We need to set up an exclusion panel. What is the role of the panel?
5. What do we need to do to federate with another GB/change the constitution?

Regular, informative, communications enable governors and trustees to keep current with the latest changes and good practice:

- **Twice termly Chairs' News** sent to chairs of subscribing schools at the beginning of each term and just after half term, this twice-termly chairs' news is part of our commitment to support chairs and keep them up-to-date with educational developments and good practice
- **Model policies, guidance and good practice templates** - New resources are developed termly – last term included the **Ofsted checklist, safeguarding advice and checklist for governors** and **guidance on dealing with complaints**.

For the autumn term:

We have **updated the Code of Conduct** and **self-certification form** to reflect changes in legislation and DfE guidance and published **good practice guidance for governing boards on Head Teacher Performance Management**

In development for October: Advice and good practice on **engaging with parents**

- **Monthly e-bulletin** sent electronically to all governors of subscribing schools - a timely summary of good practice and new initiatives with links to further information
- **Termly Governors' Update Meeting** – **free to governors whose schools subscribe to Governance Support**, Governors' Update meetings are a great opportunity to network, explore local and national developments and share

good practice. **The autumn term meetings will include a 30 minute session on the governors' role in budget monitoring and sustainability to help you reflect on linking budgets and future planning together. They will be held in the second half of the autumn term** - watch out for further information on the [Latest Updates](#) pages.

- **Access to the [School Governance pages on the EES for Schools website](#)** - password protected to governing boards subscribing to EES Governance Support.

We have been busy building our [comprehensive website](#) to support governing boards in their role. The [Latest Updates](#) section will help governors and trustees keep up-to-date with important changes in legislation and the latest DfE regulations as well as key Ofsted revisions, Essex updates and links to good practice.

We are continually adding to the [Information Library](#), so governors and trustees can find those key Ofsted, DfE, Essex County Council and good practice documents quickly and easily.

New additions include:

- Headteacher Performance Management – Guidance for Governors (EES Governance Support Sept 2017)
- Updated Exclusions Guidance_(DfE Sept 2017)
- Revised Charter for Local Authority Governors (EES Governance Support 17)
- What GBs should expect from school leaders and what school leaders should expect from GBs (revised joint paper (ASCL, LGA, NGA, NAHT - June 2017)
- Updated version of Preventing and Tackling Bullying (DfE July 2017)
- Planning calendar for academy trusts (academic year 2017/18 - Education and Skills Funding Agency)
- Jargon Buster (EES Governance Support, revised August 2017)
- Questions for Governors (Wellcome Trust)
- School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document 2017 and Guidance (DfE Sept 2017)
- Academies Financial Handbook 2017
- 2017 Code of Conduct (EES Governance Support, revised Sept 2017)
- Revised Self declaration form (Maintained schools - non LA governors)

Welcome pack for new governors – our compact, easy-to-read summary of the roles and responsibilities of governors and trustees has been **comprehensively revised to link to the [Competency Framework for Governance](#)** and is sent to all new governors and trustees at subscribing schools

Support with governor recruitment

We help subscribing schools find governors and trustees with the skills they need to drive school improvement. An exciting development is our **new [Collaboration Agreement with the Education and Employers Taskforce](#) to facilitate partnership working on recruiting school governors** – we are now planning focused joint local

recruitment campaigns to support subscribing schools in finding skilled governors for their board.

Bespoke Support

In addition to the subscription, EES Governance Support offers [bespoke support and Reviews of Governance](#) which address specific issues for your governing board. These are a valued tool to support governing boards in their self-evaluation and as a health-check in preparation for inspection.

Recent Feedback

Feedback shows that 99% of our customers rate our expertise, customer service and the positive impact of our work as excellent or good. Here are some recent comments:

'Thank you for sending me the Chairs News because it is really useful. I am glad we have sorted out our subscription, I could not be without the service because you have helped me out so much!' *Chair, Alderton Junior School*

'It has been a massive help to have someone to bounce ideas off, especially around procedures and signposts to further information. I am now a lot clearer about what I should be doing and what I need not do'. *Chair, All Saints C of E Primary School, Great Oakley*

'We found the Governors' Update extremely useful. The format of the event and the information given (and discussed) are very much what governors need to operate effectively'. *Chair, Riverside Primary School*

Cost (2017/18)

A Governance Support subscription is **£275** per governing board (£250 for schools also subscribing to Governor Training).



Debbi Botham Governor Services

T: 033301 39833

E: enquiries.governorservices@EESforschools.org