



Clerks' Briefing

Autumn Term 2025



Agenda setting

During the Autumn term, there are typically two Governing Board meetings: a Business Meeting and a full Governing Board meeting later in the term.

Let's discuss the template agendas for both meetings.

Educational Updates

Ofsted Inspection Framework – 2025

- Routine inspections are suspended until 10 November 2025
- Between 10 November and Christmas, Ofsted will prioritise schools that have volunteered for inspection under the new system
- New report card and grading system
- Safeguarding will be judged separately as a stand-alone area, as either met or not met
- Other areas will be judged on a 5-point grading scale: Exceptional, Strong standard, Expected standard, Needs attention and Urgent improvement
- Each report card will include a short narrative explanation for each grade

Educational updates

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025

- All staff working directly with children are expected to read at least part 1 of KCSiE (those who don't work directly with children can read the condensed version of part 1, in annex A).
- There are no changes to part 1 of KCSiE for 2025 and all other changes are mainly technical
- Ensure your Safeguarding Policy is updated
- Be aware that revised guidance has been issued around [relationships, sex and health education \(RSHE\)](#) – updated for September 2026
- Check that you are considering [AI usage](#) when reviewing your filtering and monitoring systems
- Ensure Governors/Trustees receive their safeguarding training

Educational updates

STPCD 2025 published

- It sets out a 4% pay increase and says part-time teachers' TLR1 and TLR2 payments can be calculated according to how much responsibility they take on.
- Is valid from 1 September 2025

Staffing and employment guidance for schools – September 2025

- This non-statutory guidance from the Department for Education provides school leaders, governors, academy trusts and local authorities in England with a comprehensive framework for managing all aspects of staffing and employment in schools. It covers appointing staff (including headteachers and deputies), safer recruitment practices, employment checks (e.g. DBS, right to work, qualifications), staff management (contracts, pay, capability, appraisal), statutory entitlements like parental leave and flexible working, and handling disciplinary, grievance, redundancy or dismissal issues. It also outlines what schools with a religious character may do in certain cases, obligations under legislation (such as the Equality Act, School Staffing (England) Regulations 2009, Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014), and the importance of adhering to safeguarding and health standards. Schools are advised to familiarise themselves with related legislation and to seek professional or legal advice where needed.

Educational updates

Related party transactions: information for academy trusts

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/related-party-transactions-information-for-academy-trusts>

Martyn's law for education settings

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/martyns-law-for-education-settings>

Company Law / Corporate Transparency Requirements

- Check if your trust has completed or is ready to comply with identity verification requirements.

Data (Use and Access) Act 2025

- Review your current data protection / privacy policies. Make sure complaints procedures include data protection complaints. Assess your readiness for handling subject access requests with proportionality. Check use of any automated decision making.

PE and Sports Premium

- It is now a requirement for the **chair of governors to formally sign the PE and sport premium report**. This change reinforces the board's accountability for how this funding is used to support PE and sport in schools. Chairs should ensure they are familiar with the report's content and that it aligns with the school's strategic priorities.

Educational updates

Sustainability & Climate Action Planning

- There is rising expectation under DfE policy for all education settings to have a nominated sustainability lead and a climate action plan by 2025. Governors are expected to have oversight / strategic responsibility for this.

Academy Trust Handbook 2025 (from 1 September 2025)

- Review the new handbook in full. Make sure that trust / governance practices comply, especially in areas that have been strengthened. Ensure accounting officer, senior leaders, trustees are familiar with new requirements.

Meeting digital and technology standards in schools and colleges

- The DfE's digital and technology standards set out how schools and trusts should manage IT systems to ensure safety, value for money and effective learning. Leaders are expected to prioritise areas like broadband, cyber security, filtering and monitoring, and digital governance, with six core standards to be met by 2030. Trustees' role is strategic: to monitor progress, scrutinise decisions, and hold leaders to account as schools align with these standards

Thank you
Have a great
Autumn term

