



January 2019

Dear chair

First of all, let me [introduce myself](#).

I have been appointed to the new role of Diocesan Governance Development Officer, based at Cathedral House. My usual pattern of working will be Mondays and Wednesdays, when I can be contacted for professional support and advice at debbibotham@dioceseofbrentwood.org

To be effective I recognise that governors need access to the most up-to-date advice on legislative and governance matters and I am looking forward to developing a comprehensive package of support and development together with Rob Simpson, Director of Education.

This twice-termly chairs mailing is part of our commitment to support you and keep you up-to-date with educational developments and good practice, both locally and nationally. I hope you will find it a useful summary.

Governance Support – Website

This term, we shall be developing a school governance area on the Diocesan website. This will include an information library where you will be able to find those key Diocesan, Ofsted, DfE and good practice documents quickly and easily. I'll keep you updated as this resource develops.

Support with the recruitment of foundation governors

We recently held a Diocesan Governor Recruitment Event for potential foundation governors with the skills boards need to drive school improvement. I am delighted that 20 delegates are keen to proceed with their application; now that I am in post I am starting to match potential governors with schools. Please note that several are looking to join schools in the Romford, Hornchurch and Dagenham area.

[If you would like support in recruiting foundation governors at your school, please get in touch.](#)

Safeguarding Update

As you know, the statutory guidance [Keeping Children Safe in Education \(KCSIE\) 2018](#) came into force on 3 September 2018.

The main changes are:

- *The role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)* - clearer information about the role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead and their deputies
- *School Policies* - all staff should be aware of systems within their school which support safeguarding, including the behaviour policy

- *Peer-on-peer abuse* – changes have been made to reflect the importance of child protection policies reflecting peer-on-peer abuse. Part 5 provides guidance for schools on how they should respond to reports of child-on-child abuse; governing boards are signposted to advice on [Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges](#)
- *Contact Numbers* – where reasonably possible, schools should have more than one emergency contact number for students
- *Safer Recruitment*- at least one of the interviewers when interviewing for new staff must have completed safer recruitment training. Clarity is given on the minimum information that must be recorded on a Single Central Record (SCR)
- *Looked After Children* – There is a new section on the requirements around previously looked after children
- *Annex A* – has been updated to include information on County lines, domestic abuse and homelessness

Please make sure all your safeguarding policies and procedures are up-to-date.

Diocese of Brentwood News

Governor Training

I shall be working with the Director for Education to develop a coherent governor development programme across the Diocese. Please alert your governors to these two workshops running in January 2019.

NB It is important for delegates to book so we can prepare enough materials for delegates.

Preparing for Ofsted

This free workshop, run by Derek Kelly (serving S48 Inspector) and Debbi Botham is available to all governors:

Preparing for Ofsted and S48 Inspections	Sat 26 Jan 2019 10:30-12:00	Cathedral House, Brentwood CM15 8AT
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[To book](#)

Mental Health and Wellbeing for Staff and Students

This workshop for school leaders, including governors, is being run by the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society and Diocesan advisers Catherine Harwood and Cathy McKenna. There is a charge of £30 per delegate.

Mental Health and Wellbeing for Staff and Students	Mon 28 Jan 2019 10:00-13:00	Cathedral House, Brentwood CM15 8AT
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[To book](#)

Ofsted News

Proposed New Ofsted Inspection Framework September 2019

Chief Inspector Amanda Spielman has [announced details of planned changes to the way Ofsted inspects schools from September 2019](#). These changes will move Ofsted's focus away from headline data to look instead at how schools are achieving these results, and whether they are offering a curriculum that is broad, rich and deep, or simply teaching to the test.

The main proposals are:

- The focus will be on the substance of education and a broad curriculum
- 4 new inspection judgements – 'quality of education', 'personal development', 'behaviour and attitudes' and 'schools' leadership and management'
- schools will no longer receive a separate grade for outcomes for pupils

Look out for the consultation on the draft framework – due later in January 2019.

DfE News

Information that must be published online

DfE has updated its guidance on the information [maintained schools](#) and [academies](#) must publish online. This includes key information about your governors as well as business and financial interests and attendance.

Mental Health and Behaviour

Non-statutory advice has been published on [Mental Health and Behaviour in Schools](#). This advice is for all school staff including school leadership and governing boards.

Online multiplication

From the 2019/20 academic year onwards, schools in England will be required to administer an [online multiplication tables check](#) (MTC) to year 4 pupils. Updated guidance has been published for primary schools and other interested parties.

Health and safety on educational visits

New guidance on [Health and Safety on Educational Visits](#) has been published by the DfE. Schools need to ensure that their Educational Visits Policy includes the latest developments in this guidance.

Introduction of T Levels

[T Levels are due to be introduced from the academic year 2020 to 2021](#). Find out what they are and how they will be introduced.

Life-Saving Skills and First Aid

The Education Secretary has announced plans for [all children to be taught basic first aid in schools from 2020](#).

Schools urged to eliminate use of single plastics by 2022

Schools are being [urged to stop using single-use plastic items and consider environmentally-friendly alternatives](#).

Latest Research

Preparing Pupils for the 'Emotional Demands' of Social Media

A report [Life in Likes](#) commissioned by the Children's Commissioner for England looked at the way social media is used by children aged 8 to 12, and its effects on their well-being.

The report showed that many Year 7 children find social media hard to manage, becoming over-dependent on 'likes' and 'comments' for social validation and recommends that schools play a bigger role in preparing younger pupils for the emotional demands of social media. This includes digital literacy and online resilience lessons for pupils in Year 6 and Year 7.

Developing Well-Being and Resilience

Research by the National Children's Bureau has found that significant numbers of children grow up with poor mental health and that 'part of the remedy lies in developing a firm foundation of well-being and resilience in children and young people, both at home and at school'.

They welcome the new downloadable [activity passport](#) for under 11s, launched by the education secretary, in its potential to 'immerse children and young people in activities that can build their confidence, develop their curiosity and support their growth beyond academic attainment'. The document will be sent to schools in January but is not mandatory.

Approaches to supporting disadvantaged pupils

DfE commissioned research to identify good practice in supporting most able disadvantaged pupils in secondary schools across England. Although a small sample, key findings suggest that successful support is about a complement of activities across academic extension, cultural enrichment, personal development and removal of financial barriers to achievement. Strong leadership and work with parents, universities and local businesses were also key to success.

I look forward to supporting you this term.



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This is an optional service, sent twice a term. If you prefer NOT to receive this chairs mailing please e-mail sophierussell@dioceseofbrentwood.org with the subject heading UNSUBSCRIBE; please include your name and school.