



June 2019

Dear chair

As always, so much is changing in education, and 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.

Diocese of Brentwood News

Instrument of Government

All Diocese of Brentwood schools which are not yet academies should have Instruments of Government that are in line with relevant CES model guidance.

It is good practice for governing boards to regularly review their effectiveness, including the extent to which their size and structure is fit for purpose and their governors have the necessary skills to help drive school improvement. [Our model Instrument of Government](#) incorporates the CES model guidance and should be used when changing your Instrument of Government. We have also produced [guidance for maintained schools on changing their Instrument of Government](#).

Governor Recruitment

It is vital that new governors feel welcomed into the school community and have the necessary information and support to fulfil their role with confidence. One of the things that confuse new governors most are the educational acronyms used in schools. You can [access our jargon buster here](#)

Did you know that a [new campaign has been launched to encourage teachers and school leaders to become school governors](#) or trustees at other schools? School governance provides genuine professional development opportunities by giving teachers valuable experience of strategic leadership and the opportunity to grow their skills in a different educational context to their own.

Governor Development

With the new Ofsted framework focusing on a broad and balanced curriculum from September 2019, these summer term workshops are essential opportunities to reflect on provision in your school. **Make sure your governors book their place.**

Workshop	Overview	Dates	Venue
Primary Curriculum- Your questions answered To book	The new Ofsted framework will move Ofsted's focus to whether schools are offering a curriculum that is broad, rich and balanced – how prepared are your primary governors?	Thur 11 July 2019 5:30-7:00	Cathedral House, Brentwood CM15 8AT
Secondary Curriculum- your questions answered	The new Ofsted framework will move Ofsted's focus to whether schools are offering a curriculum that is broad, rich	Sat 13 July 2019 9:30-12:00	Cathedral House, Brentwood CM15 8AT

To book	and balanced - how prepared are your secondary governors?		
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Please note that the Finance, Budgets and Financial Monitoring workshop has been postponed until the autumn term:

Finance, Budgets and Financial Monitoring To book	This half day workshop, essential for maintained school governors serving on a finance committee, will provide governors with the knowledge to effectively lead strategic financial management within their schools	Tues 3 Sept 2019 6:00-8:30	Cathedral House, Brentwood CM15 8AT
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Chairs' Network

This is an exciting opportunity to meet once a term, networking with other chairs and sharing good practice whilst discussing a range of relevant issues with presenting professionals. I do hope you can join us!

The first meeting of the new Diocesan Chairs' Network, open to all chairs, will focus on headteacher performance management:

Summer term meeting of Chairs' Network Book your place here	Setting objectives for the headteacher and assessing their performance and professional development needs are an essential part of driving school improvement. This is an opportunity to network and share good practice.	Wed 19 Jun 2019 5:30-7:30	Cathedral House, Brentwood CM15 8AT	Facilitators – Rob Simpson and Maria Shepherd
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Support for Clerks

We recognise that [high quality clerking](#) is crucial to governing board effectiveness, providing an invaluable contribution to the efficiency and compliance of the governing board.

An effective clerk will work in partnership with the chair to keep the governing board focused on its core strategic priorities, providing independent and expert advice and guidance to the board on its duties and functions, as well as delivering administrative support that makes everything run smoothly.

Aimed particularly at school-based clerks, we are running a free full day workshop in partnership with the C of E Diocese of Chelmsford:

Workshop	Dates	Venue
Understanding your role as a clerk Book your place here	Thur 26 Sept 2019 9:30-3:30	C of E Diocesan Office, 53 New Street Chelmsford CM1 1AT

This workshop will help clerks to:

- develop a general understanding of school governance
- put together effective agendas and minutes
- understand how to provide effective administrative support –eg attendance records, Register of Interests, governor appointments and elections
- understand the role of the clerk on specialist committees such as disciplinary, grievance and complaints panels

Safeguarding Update

Please make sure that all your safeguarding policies and procedures are in order – this is first thing Ofsted will check when they visit.

Supporting pupils with medical conditions

You will be aware from the media that a pupil died after a fatal allergic reaction when another child threw cheese at him. At the inquest, the coroner noted that there was a 'missed opportunity' at his school to inform other pupils of the boy's severe allergies and that 'the school's healthcare provision for the child was inadequate and a contributing factor in his death was the fact his allergy action plan was not included in the school's care plan or medical box'

[How well does your school support pupils with medical conditions?](#)

Outdoor Education

The summer term is often a busy one for school trips. [Governing boards may find this a useful tool](#) for ensuring they are providing sufficient oversight of school's off-site visits and learning outside the classroom.

Stress in Education (HSE)

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) says 'in the last 12 months over half a million working days were lost in secondary schools due to stress, depression or anxiety, which was caused or made worse by work'.

They have published a '[Talking Toolkit](#) for schools' which can be used as a framework to help line managers and heads of department have simple, practical conversations with school employees.

Is staff wellbeing a standing item on your agenda?

Ofsted News

New Education Inspection Framework

Ofsted have published their [new education inspection framework](#), which will take effect from September 2019.

The revised [School Inspection Handbook for inspecting schools under section 5](#) (full inspections) and [School Inspection Handbook for inspecting schools under section 8](#) (short inspections) make useful reading.

Academy News

Enhanced DBS disclosure checks for academy trust chairs

All academy trust chairs of trustees must apply for an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certificate and have their application countersigned by the Secretary of State for Education. This needs to take place prior to the chair of trustees taking up their position.

Financial reporting for academy trusts

DfE has launched a new academies chart of accounts as the [first step to automated financial reporting](#). The new [academies chart of accounts](#) is DfE's standard for financial data that underpins the academies accounts return and budget forecast returns.

DfE News

Value for Money

DfE have published [guidance on the support they have made available to schools to help reduce costs](#) and get value for money

Timpson Exclusions Review

The [Timpson Review](#) has now been published and makes 30 recommendations to Government to ensure exclusions are used appropriately.

The report concludes that there needs to be action to ensure permanent exclusions are only used as a last resort – currently, almost eight out of ten children who are permanently excluded come from vulnerable backgrounds. All 30 recommendations have been agreed by the DfE in principle with a consultation in the autumn to consider how accountability measures, such as league tables, could be used to keep schools responsible for the future outcome of excluded pupils.

Changes to assessment in primary schools

The [reception baseline assessment \(RBA\)](#), being [piloted later in 2019](#), is expected to be introduced in all state-funded primary schools in September 2020. The new 20-minute check that will provide a snapshot of pupils' development when they start school and will enable the removal of Key Stage 1 tests at the end of year 2

T Levels

The first 3 T Levels (digital production design & development, design surveying & planning and education) will be available at selected schools and colleges from September 2020.

These 2 year courses have been developed in collaboration with employers and businesses, offering students a mixture of classroom learning and on the job experience through an industry placement.

Character and Resilience

[Character and resilience are key to social mobility](#) - the Education Secretary is [seeking views on the development of character and resilience in young people](#) to help shape the recommendations of a new Character Advisory Group.

Latest Research

Violence and abuse in the classroom

A [survey by NASUWT reports that nearly a quarter of teachers responding say they face violence and abuse from pupils at least once a week](#)

'Unexplained' moves

Research by The Education Policy Institute reveals that some of the 55,000 'unexplained' moves by pupils between schools in England [could be driven by schools trying to remove difficult children](#)

State of the Nation Report 2018-19

The Social Mobility Commission has warned in its [State of the Nation 2018-19 report](#) that inequality will remain entrenched in the UK 'from birth to work' unless the government takes urgent action, with [those from better-off backgrounds almost 80% more likely to be in a professional job than their working class peers](#).

Fall in computing qualifications

[An annual study by the University of Roehampton](#) has found that fewer 16 year-olds in England are getting a computing qualification with the provision of computing education 'in steep decline'. They also found that a number of schools where it had been an option dropped it last year, among them a number of girls-only schools.

School break times

A long-term study by the [University College of London](#) finds that [school break times have been getting shorter over the past two decades](#), with worries that pupils are missing out on important social development.

Careers Education

[Research on behalf of the Education and Employers charity](#) has found [pupils who had careers sessions with employers were more likely to get better-than-predicted GCSE grades](#). It also seemed to provide the incentive for increased revision. Low achievers were particularly likely to be motivated, with a 9% increase in their revision hours.

Music in schools

Research by Birmingham City University has found that [changing how music is taught in schools could boost attendance for struggling students](#)

Small scale DfE research projects

DfE has published the [results of several small scale research projects](#) including:

- Measuring resilience to extremism in schools
- Increasing eBacc entry rates
- Holiday activities and food review

I wish you the very best for the remainder of this term. Thank you for all that you do for your school.



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