

Hillingdon Governors Termly Meeting

Spring 2019

Service Level Agreements

It's the time of year when governing boards will be reviewing SLAs in their schools.

We would like to thank all those boards that have already renewed their SLA subscriptions with us, and a reminder for that we'd appreciate any who haven't met so far could you let us know by 15 March please.

School Financial Value Standard (SFVS)

A reminder for maintained school governing boards that the completed returns need to be approved by the board and sent to the Local Authority by 31 March please.

Governor Recruitment Event

As you will have heard at the meeting from Craig of Governors for Schools that we will be holding a governor recruitment event at Whitehall Infant School on Wednesday 22 May. More details to follow. Please put the date in your diary and ask one of your colleagues to come along to support us.

Courses

We have a few places on our course:

Academy Governance from a Clerks Perspective on 26 March, starts at 1.00pm

Book on line, email or phone us to reserve a place.

DfE

Lord Agnew speaking at the National Governance Association Clerks Conference

Noting the importance of clerks' development and fair remuneration, Lord Agnew acknowledged that boards, trusts and LAs should "invest proportionately" in clerks. He also stated that the role should not be an "add on" to existing roles in the school, but a separate profession in and of itself, noting Ofsted's finding that clerks are pivotal to improving the effectiveness of governing boards' work.

DfE

Changes to teacher pension contributions

Teacher pension contributions will rise from 16.48% (in 2018/19) to 23.6% (for the period 1 September 2019 to 31 March 2023). The government estimate that, for 2019-20, this increase will cost state-funded schools £830m.

The DfE is proposing to "provide funding towards" the £830m (in state-schools) for the costs incurred in 2019/20. However, "any further funding [beyond 2020] would rely on the government's spending review" scheduled for next year. An increase of approx. 7% potentially beyond 2020.

DfE

Mental and physical wellbeing

New plans set out by the DfE confirm that, from September 2020, pupils of all ages will be taught the new subject – with a focus on promoting the positive link between physical and mental health.

This comes alongside the introduction of compulsory relationships education for primary-age pupils and relationships and sex education (RSE) for secondary-age pupils, to ensure children have all the knowledge they need to grow up healthy, happy and safe.

DfE

Checklist on indicators of potential fraud

The third core function of school governing boards is to oversee financial performance of the organisation and to make sure money is well spent. To support schools in ensuring effective financial performance, the Department for Education (DfE) have compiled a list of indicators and risk factors associated with potential fraud.

The indicators have been categorised into the following areas: personal motives for fraud, organisational motives for fraud, weaknesses in internal controls, transactional indicators, the methods used to commit or conceal fraud and record keeping/banking/other.

Some of the risks factors relating to the remit of the governing board include:

- related party transactions;
- conflicts of interest;
- lack of an appropriate organisational and governance structure with defined lines of authority and reporting responsibilities;
- management demonstrates lack of attention to ethical values;
- lack of personnel policies and recruitment practices;
- accounting systems are inadequate;
- no mechanism exists to inform management, directors, trustees or and governors of possible fraud.

Due to the nature of fraud, risk factors may not be exclusive to just one area and the guidance outlines that “the document is not exhaustive and is a guide only but may be helpful for use as a checklist where concerns exist that fraudulent activity may be taking place”. Click [here](#) to access the guidance.

Ofsted

New Ofsted Inspection Framework: consultation open

Ofsted has published the consultation of its [draft framework for the inspection](#) of maintained and academy schools, to take effect from September 2019. The rationale for this, was because Ofsted has previously placed “too much weight on test and exam results”.

Ofsted intend for a single “quality of education” judgement to replace the existing “quality of teaching, learning and assessment” and “outcomes for pupils” categories. The proposals are that inspectors will focus on a provider’s curriculum intent, implementation and impact, and pupil performance will not be considered in isolation but in the context of the school curriculum. The aim is to “de-intensify the inspection focus on performance data and place more emphasis on the substance of education and what matters most to learners and practitioners.” Consultation closes on 5 April 2019.

Ofsted

Parent View Information

Interesting statistics showing the number of parent responses received on Parent View in the last year of primary schools inspected in Hillingdon. The response rate ranges from 3% to 49%. Average response rate of 13.5%.