

**Governor Support Service**

# **Clerks Briefing Meeting**

**Ron Fowler and Sandra D'Souza**

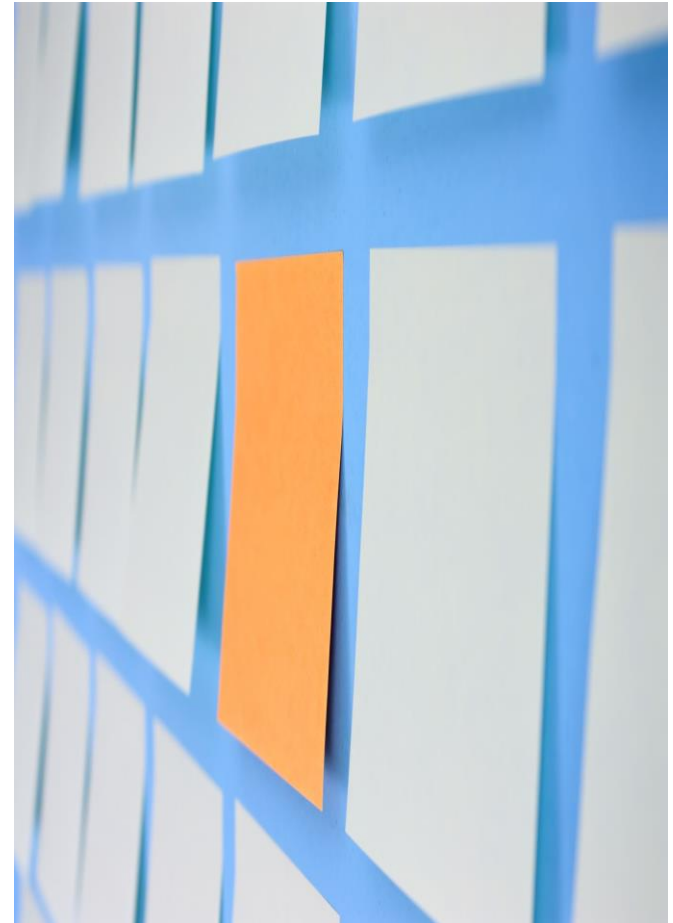


**8th February 2024**

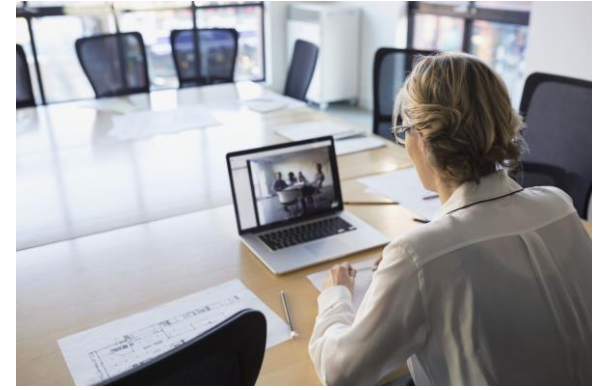
# Clerks briefing – February 2024

## Agenda

- ✓ Welcome
- ✓ Your news
- ✓ Vacancies
- ✓ News in brief
- ✓ Help us to help you
- ✓ Agenda reminders
- ✓ Updates from DfE & Ofsted
- ✓ Information exchanges
- ✓ Your questions



# Clerks briefing – February 2024



## Housekeeping/Reminders

- ✓ Keep your governor database and ours up to date
- ✓ Providing us with a copy of your FGB and Committee meeting minutes
- ✓ Have you changed your Instrument of Government?
- ✓ Ensure that the school website is up to date and accurate
- ✓ Training – remind your governors of training available, & ask they let us know if they can't attend after booking a place
- ✓ GSS website – access to the secure area
- ✓ Check with your school that GSS are on “White” email list

# News in brief



- ✓ **Exclusions course**  
*Thursday 22nd February, 6.30pm*
- ✓ **Panel outcome letters**  
*See slide 5*
- ✓ **Parent Governor Elections**  
*Reminder to include declaration form with info sent to applicants*
- ✓ **SFVS summary**  
*Presentation for colleagues who are new to governance. Copy attached.*
- ✓ **Governor survey**  
*Please share with colleagues to help us plan future courses*



# Exclusion



- NGA calling for the duty to form exclusion review panels not to fall to governors/trustees but to a suitable qualified and independent reviewer
- Independent Review Panel picking up on timing in minutes, pupil voice, minuting the deliberations, following fair process, governors/trustees asking sufficient (and robust) questions and challenging the school on their actions, training for panel and clerk, chair of the board 'should not' be part of the panel, insufficient information or evidence from the school.

# Attendance

An international problem (other countries at 11% or 12% absence rates)

£15 million invested over 3 years to expand the attendance mentor pilot programme and expansion of the attendance hubs – increasing from 18 to 32

Led by schools with excellent attendance  
Schools will be required to share daily school registers going forward

National advert aimed at parents to hit our TV screens soon!

School leaders are keen that the government targets parents – this is not a problem that can be solved by schools alone



**“THIS MORNING,  
HE WAS WORRIED  
ABOUT SCHOOL...  
BUT LOOK AT HIM  
NOW!”**

**MOMENTS  
MATTER,  
ATTENDANCE  
COUNTS.**





**National School  
Governors'  
Awareness Day**  
29th February 2024

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**29 FEBRUARY 2024**

**GOVERNANCE OF INCLUSION**

[www.schoolgovernorsday.co.uk](http://www.schoolgovernorsday.co.uk)



# Workload reduction taskforce

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATORS OF GOVERNOR SERVICES



- Removal of performance related pay (PRP) from September 2024, to be replaced with a 'less bureaucratic way' to manage performance. (*'We will conduct a rapid government and trade unions review of current guidance surrounding appraisal and performance management to facilitate a replacement for PRP being in place from 1st September 2024. By communicating any changes in Spring 2024, schools will have sufficient notice to enable them to prepare during the summer for September 2024 implementation'.*)
- Department for Education ambition to reduce teachers' and leaders' working hours by 5 hours a week within 3 years
- Proposed new administrative tasks not to be carried out by teachers/leaders to be included in the STPCD.

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## Suggested Agenda Topics

- Pupil Attendance
- Pupil & PE premium
- Behaviour & Exclusions
- Special Educational Needs & EHCPs
- School financial value statement
- Ofsted changes

*See slide 10 & discuss section on “pausing an inspection/responsible body” please*

- Budget
- SLAs
- Headteacher report
- School development plan
- RAAC for affected schools
- Digital standards-link governor?

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## Ofsted changes

- ✓ Scheduling inspectors to return more quickly to schools graded inadequate because of ineffective safeguarding but which are otherwise performing
- ✓ Pausing an inspection to allow inspectors or **responsible body** for a school, to request a pause to an inspection, for example if it is necessary to provide additional support for a headteacher

## Ofsted changes

- ✓ Changes to Ofsted's complaints process following a consultation held last year
- ✓ Introduction of a duty helpline to take calls directly from providers during & after an inspection

## Ofsted changes

- ✓ Changes to school handbooks, to make clear that school leaders can be joined by colleagues in meetings with inspectors, and can share inspection outcomes with colleagues, family, medical advisers & their wider support group before sharing with parents
- ✓ Delivering seminars across all Ofsted's regions to support leaders of previously exempt outstanding schools ahead of their next inspection

# Clerks briefing – February 2024

## Education Skills & Funding Agency (ESFA)

- All academy trusts with an open academy on 31st December 2023 must complete self-assessment checklist each year (by 15th March 2024)

**Look forward to seeing you at our next meeting**

**Tuesday 5th March 2024  
at 10.00am**



# GSS Contact details

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