

Governor Support Service

Clerks Briefing Meeting

Ron Fowler and Sandra D'Souza



11th September 2025

Clerks briefing – September 2025

Agenda

- ✓ Welcome back & Introductions
- ✓ Future meeting schedule
- ✓ Information Exchange
- ✓ Support and Resources
- ✓ Current Issues and Updates
- ✓ Clerking Vacancies
- ✓ Q&A
- ✓ Future Planning



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Suggested agenda items

- Keeping Children Safe in Education
- New EYFS framework
- Martyn`s Law
- Relationships, Sex and Health Education
- Artificial Intelligence
- KS2,GCSE and A level results



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Suggested agenda items

- Attendance
- School Profiles
- Support staff pay increase
- Exclusions/SEND
- School uniform



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Academies

Publication of Academy Trust Handbook, September 2025:

- Digital and estates responsibilities – trusts should now be working towards meeting the 6 core digital and technology standards by 2030
- Accounting officer duties – definitions of regularity, propriety, value for money and feasibility have been updated to align more closely with HM Treasury's *Managing Public Money*. Accounting officers also have a strengthened duty to raise concerns with the board or DfE if proposed actions conflict with requirements.
- Executive pay – further clarity on the board's role in setting executive salaries. Decisions must be transparent, evidence-based, and defensible.
- Procurement – updated guidance on processes and expectations around value for money.
- Cyber security – trusts are explicitly prohibited from paying ransomware demands.
- Regulator and intervention – DfE may now recover funds where there is evidence of fraud or irregularity. Educational performance has been removed as a standalone trigger for a Notice to Improve.

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Ofsted

New inspection framework from November 2025:

- Five point grading structure
- Safeguarding separate assessment
- Core areas of evaluation
- Inclusion as a stand alone area
- New emphasis on inclusion
- Governance, inspectors will assess:
- Statutory duties
- Challenge and support leaders
- Leaders workload and wellbeing
- That governors assure themselves that leaders have an accurate understanding of school's context and priorities for improvement
- Impact of CPD for staff
- Support and provision for disadvantaged pupils

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Ofsted

New inspection framework from November 2025:

- All routine inspections to be “full inspections”
- Four year cycle
- Schools that “need attention” will to have more frequent monitoring inspections
- School inspection toolkits
- Inspection will return on 10th November but only for those that have volunteered
- Routine inspections return no earlier that 1st December and will be pushed back to the new year if there are enough schools volunteering for inspection
- Note Webinars for Primary, Secondary and Special schools on the new framework
- Our course for governors is Wednesday 15th October

Reminders and suggested agenda items

- Review of recruitment and retention of governors
- Review governing board & committee structures
- Review and approve service level agreements
- Publish PE & sports premium
- Headteacher appraisal (appoint 2/3 governors, agree date, and arrange external reviewer to support panel)
- Review policies
- **See briefing sheet for model governing board agenda items for the autumn term**
- Recommend that new or recently appointed governors attend our *“Governance Essentials”* course

Help us to help you

Please let us know about any:

- ❖ Board appointments, reappointments, and resignations
- ❖ Contact emails and mobile numbers of members of the board
- ❖ Dates of appointment and term of office category of governor positions held, i.e., chair, vice chair, committee chair, member of a committee, link governor
- ❖ Copies of the approved board minutes
- ❖ It is important that you keep your GIAS establishment record up to date so that the DfE can always contact you or your chair if needed.

- ❖ Let us know if you or any of your colleagues can help us with interim or substantive clerking please

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On the horizon:

- ✓ **DfE drawing up new guidance over complaints**
- ✓ **Schools bill-autumn term/White paper**
- ✓ **Schools & Academies Show (Birmingham) 19th & 20th November**

Autumn term courses



- **New Ofsted inspection framework**
Wednesday 15th October at 6.30pm
- **Making sense of school data**
Thursday 2nd October at 6.30pm
- **Understanding & monitoring the primary curriculum**
Thursday 23rd October at 6.30pm
- **Governance Essentials: Two part course for new governors**
Thursday 6th & 20th November at 6.30pm
- **Strategic oversight-finance for all governors**
Wednesday 12th November at 6.30pm
- **Pupil Premium for Governors, part one**
Wednesday 12th November at 6.30pm
- **Dealing with concerns & complaints**
Thursday 13th November at 6.30pm

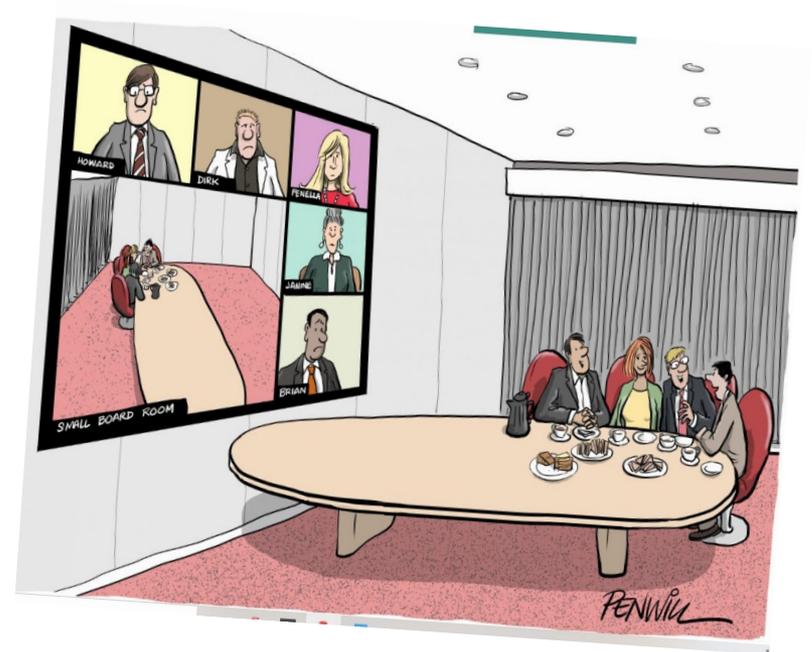
Q&A

The image features three large, 3D-rendered characters: a red 'Q', a green '&', and a blue 'A'. The characters are positioned horizontally and cast soft shadows on the white surface below them. The 'Q' is on the left, the '&' is in the middle, and the 'A' is on the right. Each character has a thick, blocky appearance with a slight bevel on its edges.

Look forward to seeing you at our next meeting:

Wednesday 22nd October 2025
at 10.00am

✓ Book a place [here](#)



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