

1. Training
2. Ofsted
3. Child Protection
4. DfE
5. Ofqual
6. Education and Skills Funding Agency
7. Misc.

Welcome to the 7th edition of the Governor Support to Schools Service newsletter. As the new academic year kicks off another exciting year lies ahead.

The world of governance is in constant flux and keeping up to date with national education policy, news items and especially information in regard to safeguarding goes beyond a Termly meeting agenda item.

While this newsletter is produced by the Governor Support to Schools Service, an SLA offered under Together For Children, Sunderland, the Company does not affiliate with or endorse any particular view or publication and offer the content as information and discussion topics only - where appropriate, specific advice should always be sought.

We hope you find these releases informative and if you have any queries please contact us on 0191 561 2626 or alternatively at:

governor@togetherforchildren.org.uk

1. Training

Training



Governor Training

The latest version of the Governor Training Programme, delivered by the School Improvement Service, has been added to the TFC website. Please click the link below for details on courses available:

[Governor Training Programme 2019/20](#) to book direct, contact: Professional.development@togetherforchildren.org.uk

2. Ofsted

Ofsted



Home Education

Ofsted carried out a study: 'Exploring moving to home education in secondary schools' across 7 local authorities in the East Midlands specifically to look at how and why children move from secondary school to home education.

Ofsted's published report says that special educational needs, medical, behavioural or other well-being needs were the main reasons behind such a move for parents and their children. Read the report here: [Exploring moving into home education](#)

3. Child Protection

Child Protection



Latest online trends

The Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference (HMC) has released findings from research looking at the digital wellbeing of 11 to 16-year-olds in state and independent schools in the UK. Findings from face-to-face sessions with more than 50,000 pupils include: vulnerable young people

who go online to seek support for mental health issues can find themselves being bullied and accused of 'Sadfishing', a social media phenomenon that emerged after celebrities were accused of posting exaggerated claims about their emotional problems to generate sympathy and draw people on to their sites.

[Latest online trend](#)

Health Visitors

The Institute of Health Visiting (IHV) has published its proposal for a new model of health visiting in England. Suggestions include: increasing the minimum number of contacts from a health visitor offered to parents from five to eight; sustainable funding for health visiting services and a shift from measuring process outcomes to measuring impact over time.

[Health Visiting in England Report](#)

Prevent

The Home Office has launched a call for evidence for the independent review of Prevent to be carried out by Lord Carlile. Evidence is sought from a broad range of opinions, expertise and experience including health care professionals and schools and higher education institutions. The consultation closes on 9th December 2019.

[Prevent: call for evidence](#)

Age verification for online pornography

Nicky Morgan, Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), has announced in a written ministerial statement that the Government will not be commencing Part 3 of the Digital Economy Act 2017 concerning age verification for online pornography. The verification had been designed to prevent children under the age of 18 from accessing online pornography.

Read the Parliament statement here: [Commons release](#)

Pupil Premium

Department for Education (DfE) published new resources to support schools in using Pupil Premium effectively. Those governing approve their school's Pupil Premium Strategy and are ultimately responsible for ensuring that spending decisions are working to support disadvantaged pupils and helping to reduce differences between them and their non-disadvantaged peers.

[Pupil Premium effective use and accountability](#)

[4. DfE](#)

[DfE](#)



Integrated Curriculum and Financial Planning (ICFP)

ICFP is a management process that helps schools plan the best curriculum for their pupils with the funding they have available. It can be used at any phase or type of school.

ICFP involves measuring your current curriculum, staffing structure and finances, and using the data to create a 3 to 5-year plan. Introductory materials for Headteachers, School Business professionals and governors are available for more information here: [ICFP information](#)

National Curriculum Assessments Calendar

Important dates for primary schools to plan for the 2020 Key Stage 1 and 2 tests (commonly called SATs), Teacher Assessment and the Phonics Screening Check.

[Academic calendar](#)

Overview of the IDSR: Primary

As the Autumn term advances data will be high on the agenda. The DfE have released updated guidance for governors to help understand School Inspection Data Summary Reports (IDSR). Secondary-specific guidance to coincide with the release of the secondary IDSR will be published in due course.

[IDSR Guide](#)

Absences

The release reports on pupil absences in primary, secondary and special schools in Autumn and Spring terms of the 2018 to 2019 academic year.

[Autumn 18 to Spring 19](#)

Parental engagement and supporting LGBT

The Department for Education (DfE) has published a guide for primary Headteachers in England about parental engagement in their school's Relationships Education Policy, prior to Relationships Education becoming compulsory for all schools in September 2020. The DfE has also published guidance on primary school disruption over LGBT teaching and relationships education. [Parental engagement](#)

[Managing primary school disruption over LGBT teaching](#)

The Northern Ireland Education Authority (EA) has published non-statutory guidelines for schools in Northern Ireland on how to support transgender pupils. The guidance covers: gender identity and the curriculum, developing a whole school approach, supporting children and young people with gender issues and developing a support plan

[Supporting transgender young people](#)

Brexit

A Brexit deal has been agreed but needs to be ratified. The UK could still leave with no deal if the UK and EU do not approve and sign the withdrawal agreement.

This page tells you how to prepare for Brexit and will be updated if anything changes: [Preparations for schools](#)

In the event of a no-deal Brexit the Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA) will no longer automatically receive or maintain details of those teachers who have been sanctioned, post exit, in EEA member states.

If the UK leaves with a deal, the existing system for checking EEA sanctions will remain in place until at least 31 December 2020.

Early Years Qualifications

An Early Education and Childcare T Level will meet the Early Years Educator criteria. On successful achievement of an Early Education and Childcare T Level, the young person can count in the level 3 ratios. For more information and to

check apprenticeships qualifications visit the DfE Website: [Early Years qualifications finder](#)

New guidance for schools on allergies

The Department for Education has released new guidance for schools for allergies. The guidance outlines legal requirements for schools regarding allergies and their food provision, including practical measures and advice. It also details dealing with severe reactions.

Governors and Trustees are reminded that they are “responsible for the provision of school food” and, as part of the DfE’s statutory guidance on supporting pupils with medical conditions at schools, Governing Boards “should make sure that ... a child with an allergy is able to eat a school lunch”.

[Allergy guidance for schools](#)

Schools Causing Concern (SCC)

The SCC guidance offers advice on how Regional School Commissioners and Local Authorities may use their powers of intervention in schools. The guidance has now been updated and can be found here: [Updated SCC](#)

5. Ofqual

Ofqual



Consultation

Ofqual published a consultation on proposed new rules that will strengthen the regulation of Technical Awards listed in Key Stage 4 performance tables. The proposals are intended to enhance the qualifications’ validity and better align regulation with the Department

for Education’s (DfE) performance table requirements.

The consultation is open until Monday 2 December 2019. The consultation and further information can be found here: [Consultation - regulating performance tables](#)

Reviews of marking and moderation

1.4,250 GCSE grades were challenged in the 2018 November series (3.9% of 108,080 certificates awarded), of which 685 resulted in grade changes (16.1% of grades challenged or 0.6% of all certificates).

Main trends and more complex data can be found here: [Review publication](#)

6. Education and Skills Funding Agency

Education and Skills Funding Agency



Academies financial returns

Guides and links to further information about financial returns academy trusts submit to the Education and Skills Funding Agency can be found below.

If forms are rejected and not re-submitted by the deadline, it will be deemed late. It is highly recommended contacting the necessary user as soon as possible to ensure all review and submission is completed by the deadline.

[academies financial returns 2019/20](#)

7. Misc.

The accounts return (AR) online will open on 4 November 2019 and the submission deadline is 20 January 2020. Completion guidance is available from: [Guidance Live](#)

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Schools' financial benchmarking tool updated for maintained schools

A new release of the schools' financial benchmarking tool was made on Thursday 17 October. This release includes Local Authority maintained school spending data, updated for the 2018 to 2019 financial year.

[Schools' financial benchmarking](#)

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Misc.

PSHE

The PSHE Association has released a free-to-download presentation to help explain Relationships Education and Health Education compulsory aspects of PSHE education.

The download can be accessed from: [Statutory PSHE Changes Key Stages 1 and 2](#)

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Improving Social and Emotional Learning in Primary Schools

On PSHE, the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) has released a guidance report on 'Improving Social and Emotional Learning in Primary Schools'. The report finds that PSHE education can provide valuable contexts in which to teach social and emotional learning as it develops children's skills whilst building knowledge about particular aspects of life, for example, physical health or safety.

[Social and Emotional Learning](#)

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Inspiring Governance

Inspiring Governance is a free, online service that connects schools and trusts in England with skilled volunteers in your area who are interested in becoming a school governor or Trustee. Online technology is used which lets you quickly search for volunteers based on skills, experience and location.

[Help in recruiting governors](#)

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Check your blind cords

Office for Product Safety and Standards has reminded everyone that new blinds with looped cords must have child safety devices installed at the point of manufacture or sold with the blind. However, blinds installed earlier may not have these features.

More information can be found here: [Keep your environment safe](#)

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The Health and Safety Executive (HSE)

HSE is highlighting the need for schools to ensure that furniture and equipment such as shelving, display boards, cupboards and lockers are maintained in good condition and are secured to prevent them falling or toppling and causing injury.

[Classroom checklist](#)

HSE has also been made aware of several concerns regarding poor ventilation leading to the build-up of fumes within science facilities. Schools and colleges should ensure that any extraction, or local exhaust ventilation (LEV) functions correctly and adequately controls the risks. This includes LEV used in connection with welding or woodworking equipment.

For more information on LEV workplace fumes and dust extraction visit the HSE Guidance Centre: [Schools \(2019\) - LEV](#)

Report to governors on SEND – template

Together for Children, Education Services have created a SEND Report template for schools to report to governors. For more information please contact Zena Wilkinson (Governor Support to Schools Service, Team Leader):

Zena.Wilkinson@togetherforchildren.org.uk

Mental Health Awareness Training

The Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families have been commissioned by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) to offer a comprehensive free Mental Health Awareness Training, centered around a one-day face-to-face training. This one-day training will be freely available to those schools who:

- have not yet received Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Training in 2017 – 2018, and
- are a mainstream secondary school, sixth form college, Pupil Referral Unit or a Free School

The list of eligible schools is here: [eligible schools updated](#)

Nursery School Funding

The Government has accepted that nursery school funding is insufficient. As a stopgap measure, it allocated some money to plug the holes but only till 2020. Nursery schools face losing one third of their budget on average next year. This means severe cuts to the education and services they provide. In many cases, these cuts will simply put nursery schools at risk of closure. Action Network have released a national petition to help curb further budget cuts which can be found below

[Action Network - saving nursery schools](#)

Christmas can be a difficult time for some.

Education Support Partnership: 08000 562 561

The Education Support Partnership are the only UK charity dedicated to improving the wellbeing and mental health of education staff in schools, colleges and universities.

[helpline poster](#)

Samaritans: 116 123

Remember you do not have to feel suicidal to call them

Finally, from the Governor Support Team, we look forward to supporting you in the Spring term.

Remember, we work all year round, so if you do have any queries or comments, even during the school holidays, contact us on 191 561 2626 or alternatively at: governor@togetherforchildren.org.uk

From all of us, have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

putting
the child first

Working on behalf of
Sunderland City Council

www.togetherforchildren.org.uk