Summer Issue
May 2026

HILLINGDON
LONDON

Schools Governors' Update

Dear governors,
As we approach the end of the school year it is an excellent opportunity both for reflection and for future planning. It is also a busy time in the school calendar with important milestones to be met including; ratifying the schools' budget, national assessments and exams, alongside a wide range of enriching activities such as educational visits, sports events, and celebrations of pupils' achievements.

We continue to provide support and keep you informed of forthcoming activities and events delivered by the LA's Schools' Governance Service, as well as highlighting some of the recent issues impacting education and governance.

Upcoming events - Summer term

School governors in-person networking event - Wednesday 10 June at 6pm *Book here*

We would be delighted to see you at this in-person event at the Civic Centre, Uxbridge. It enables governors/trustees and clerks from across Hillingdon's schools to meet face to face, providing the opportunity to chat all things governance!

The aim of the evening is to discuss key issues that are currently affecting school governance as well as sharing knowledge and best practice.

An introduction into understanding the use of AI in schools for School Governors - 22 June at 6pm *Book here*

This online training will explore how AI is currently being used within schools and the impact this is having in classrooms. It will look at how governors can use AI tools to support and enhance their role.

Thank you to all the governors and clerks who have attended our training, events and briefings over the last term as part of our commitment to support and strengthen governing boards in Hillingdon schools.

We hope you found them useful and can apply the training to your work.

Details of all previous events can be found here: *LA Training for School Governors - Leap*

Fully funded safeguarding training and policy resources for all Hillingdon schools

We would like to remind governors that you have access to a fully funded training and policy resource platform designed to support safeguarding practice.

This resource is completely free — generously funded by ACS International School, with the aim to save your school time, money and support with up-to-date knowledge and practice.

Independent Safeguarding Service (ISS) has created a Hillingdon specific online portal for you to access resources, ensuring that all policies and procedures are in line with our expectations, and that safeguarding policies are reviewed by HCR Law and fully compliant. Please ask your schools to provide you with the login to access the site.
Independent Safeguarding Service

Safeguarding audit

Please be aware that safeguarding audits have been sent to schools to complete and return by 1 June. The audits will help provide clear evidence about the progress your school is making in response to safeguarding.

Though the headteacher has overall responsibility for this document, it is best practice for it to be a collaborative piece of work between the headteacher, DSL and Safeguarding Link Governor.

However, by governing boards actively engaging in safeguarding audits, governors strengthen the school's safeguarding culture, ensure compliance and provide assurance to stakeholders that children are protected effectively.

Audit outcomes should be formally ratified through the school's governance procedures. Any actions arising from the audit must be monitored and tracked with the SDP to ensure completion and continuous improvement. Please ensure the safeguarding audit is an agenda item this term.

Continued

Support with school marketing

We are aware that many schools across the borough are beginning to feel the real impact of falling pupil numbers, driven by changing demographics, lower birth rates, and increasing competition between schools. In this evolving landscape, it is more important than ever that schools clearly communicate their strengths, values, and the opportunities they offer to prospective families.

Effective marketing is no longer simply an optional extra—it has become a vital part of ensuring a school's sustainability and continued success.

From maintaining a strong online presence to engaging with the local community and showcasing pupil achievements, schools must actively promote what makes them unique. As governors, your role is to support school leaders in developing thoughtful and strategic approaches to marketing, while remaining true to your core purpose: providing the very best education for all pupils.

To support schools with this we are offering all primary schools the opportunity to attend free in-person marketing workshops. A date for the workshop is still being finalised, but for any further information, or to register your interest, please contact Melanie Southby at *msouthby@hillingdon.gov.uk*

School food

Ofsted's new Common Inspection Framework includes a judgment on personal development, behaviour and welfare, and inspectors will look at the extent to which schools are successfully supporting pupils to gain knowledge of how to keep themselves healthy and make informed choices about healthy eating, and fitness.

Hillingdon's Public Health team have shared new resources on LEAP including a self-assessment toolkit to support school leaders and governing bodies to consider and evidence how they are taking a whole school approach to food. *leap.hillingdon.gov.uk/School-Food-Standards* There is also a survey for primary schools to complete and return to the LA's Public Health team. *Click Here*

National consultations:

Growing up in the online world - Following the *Online Safety Act 2023* the government want to understand how technology impacts children's wellbeing, and what more can be done to help families. Click: *Growing up in the online world: a national consultation - GOV.UK.* **Closes on 26 May.**

School food standards: updating the legislative framework - This consultation makes proposals for updating the school food standards and the Department for Education (DfE) is seeking views. The Requirements for School Food Regulations 2014 provide the legislative framework to ensure schools in England provide children with healthy food and drink, and to make sure that children have the energy and nutrition they need across the school day.

The existing standards have been in place for more than 10 years and no longer align with current dietary advice. It is recommended that a lead governor or trustee is appointed with designated responsibility for school food. Click *School Food Standards: updating the legislative framework - Department for Education - Citizen Space* **Closes on 12 June.**

Review into antisemitism in schools and colleges In March 2026 the Secretary of State for Educationasked Sir David Bell to conduct *a review into antisemitism in schools and colleges in England.*

As part of this review, the call for evidence seeks views from people with relevant lived experience, knowledge or expertise of antisemitism in schools and colleges. It will inform practical recommendations for the DfE and sector leaders on how to effectively , identify,preventand respond to antisemitism and other forms of hatred and prejudice. Click: *Independent review into antisemitism: Call for Evidence - Department for Education - Citizen Space* **Closes on 1 July.**

With half term on the horizon, we hope that you are able to rest, relax and enjoy your much-deserved short break. The final half term will enable your boards to prepare for the end of the school year, providing the opportunity for reflection and for future planning, checking that all responsibilities have been completed for 2025/26 and that actions are in place in preparation for the 2026/27 academic year.

Once again, we would like to thank all governors for your continued support to schools in the borough and working to achieve the best possible outcomes for all pupils.

LA Schools' Governance Service

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Please access education information via *LEAP*