Summer Issue
July 2026

HILLINGDON
LONDON

Schools Governors' Update

Dear Governors,

As another academic year draws to a close, Governor Services would like to take this opportunity to thank governors, trustees and governance professionals for your continued commitment, dedication and support to schools throughout the year.

The summer term has provided the opportunity for you to reflect on the achievements, challenges and successes of the past year, and to recognise the vital role that your effective governance plays in supporting strong leadership, promoting accountability and ensuring the best possible outcomes for children and young people in Hillingdon.

This edition of the newsletter highlights key developments in education and governance, shares useful updates and outlines governor training available for the autumn term. We anticipate more will be scheduled in due course. We hope you find the information both informative and helpful as you review the year and begin planning for the next.

Training and updates

Upcoming events – Autumn term

Safeguarding Training for Governors 2026/2027 - Wednesday 16 September 2026 at 6pm *Book Here*
Mandatory training for all governors. An online session will be delivered by Amandeep Tamber, Education Safeguarding and Wellbeing Officer. The session will highlight the changes to Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) as well as current local and national issues and provide an oversight of Hillingdon's safeguarding processes.

Understanding Governor Responsibilities to handling complaints – Monday 5 October 2026 at 6pm *Book Here.* This online training session will be delivered by Richard Woodfin, School Improvement Adviser will provide an overview of the practical steps boards can take when handling complaints. It will outline the essential knowledge and skills needed to effectively understand the role of a Governor in regard to dealing with complaints.

An Overview of Schools Finance for Governors, Knowing your Responsibilities - Monday 23 November 2026 at 6pm *Book Here*
An online session will be delivered by Luisa Hansen, Head of Finance, Education and SEND and will provide an update on school's finance in Hillingdon, as well as a brief overview of where schools' funding comes from. It will also outline the key responsibilities that governors play in managing and monitoring school budgets.

Support with School Marketing workshop – Wednesday 14 October, 9.30am to 11.30am.
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.

From maintaining a strong online presence to engaging with the local community and showcasing pupil achievements, Governors are to support school leaders in developing strategic approaches to marketing, while remaining true to the core purpose: providing the best education for all pupils.

To support schools, we are offering all primary schools the opportunity to attend a free in-person marketing workshop. To register please *Book Here* and for further details please contact Melanie Southby at *msouthby@hillingdon.gov.uk*

Walking in Our Shoes is a unique in-person training opportunity. It will enable you to further understand the lived experiences of vulnerable children and young people – not just those who are care experienced. The workshop will be delivered through a mix of interactive games, engaging activities, and real-life perspectives. This is an incredible opportunity to learn directly from young people, gain new perspectives, and improve the way you work to further understand those who need our support the most.

Please book this free training using your school email address via learning zone - Course: *Walking in our Shoes 2026/27*

Continued

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.

In order to further strengthen and develop our governor training programme we would be grateful if you could please complete the feedback form *Click Here*

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

Maintained schools – restructuring process
Governing boards should be aware that, where a maintained school is considering a staffing restructure, the local authority must be consulted before any formal process can proceed.

Following internal discussions, schools must submit details of the proposed restructure to Abi Preston, Director of Send and Education and to Hillingdon HR for review and approval. Once approval has been received, the school may proceed with the restructure process.

Please ensure that restructuring proposals are submitted at least 10 working days before the intended start date of the process to allow sufficient time for consideration.

If you have any questions regarding this process, please contact *education@hillingdon.gov.uk*

National updates

Keeping children safe in education (KCSIE)
Please note the updated version of KCSIE 2026/27 statutory guidance has been published, and this will come into effect from 1 September 2026. The governing board's role is to provide oversight, challenge and assurance that safeguarding arrangements are effective, legally compliant and embedded throughout the school, ensuring that children are kept safe. Read more at *Keeping children safe in education - GOV.UK*

Impact of the removal of the Physical Education (PE) and Sport Premium: The Government has recently announced that from Spring 2027, the Primary PE and Sport Premium will be discontinued and replaced by a PE and School Sport Partnerships Network. This represents a significant change for schools particularly in primary schools that have relied on the grant to fund PE, physical activity and sporting opportunities.

Governors will need to understand the extent to which the school's PE provision depends on Sport Premium funding and the financial implications of its removal. Governors have a responsibility to ensure that school leaders have a clear plan for transitioning to the new partnership-based model.

Boards should seek assurance that a transition plan is in place, risks have been identified and alternative sources of provision or funding have been explored. This grant has often been used to widen participation for disadvantaged pupils and pupils with SEND. The removal of direct funding may create barriers to participation if schools are unable to maintain current provision. Governors should ensure leaders assess any equality impact and monitor whether particular groups are disproportionately affected.

Benedicts Law – new standalone allergy policy
Benedict's Law refers to new allergy safety requirements for schools in England, introduced following the death of Benedict Blythe, a five-year-old pupil who died from anaphylaxis at school in 2021. The government has committed to statutory allergy guidance and stronger legal protections which come into effect from September 2026. Governors should view allergy management as a significant safeguarding issue. The board will need assurance that effective systems are in place to identify, manage and respond to severe allergies and medical conditions.

Schools are expected to have a comprehensive standalone allergy policy rather than simply including allergies within a wider medical needs policy. Governors should approve, monitor and review this new policy regularly and ensure it is published appropriately. Read more at *Stronger protections for children with allergies in school - GOV.UK*

Implications for schools of the approval of Martyn's Law
Martyn's Law (the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025) has important governance, implications on safeguarding and risk management and schools have been given some special provisions under the legislation. For governing boards, the main ramification is not the introduction of extensive physical security measures, but the need to provide robust strategic oversight and assurance that the school is prepared to respond effectively to a terrorist incident.

Boards should view Martyn's Law as an extension of their existing responsibilities for safeguarding, health and safety, risk management and emergency planning. The Act requires organisations to consider how they would respond to a terrorist attack and take proportionate measures to reduce vulnerability. Read more at *Martyn's Law for education settings - GOV.UK*

Once again, thank you for your commitment, dedication and engagement in school governance throughout this year. We hope you feel proud of all that has been achieved, and we are grateful for the support, challenge and valuable insight you provide to our schools, as well as for the generosity of your time.

We wish you a restful, enjoyable and well-deserved summer break and look forward to continuing to work with you in the new academic year.

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