Spring issue 1

HILLINGDON
LONDON

Half Termly School Governors Update

Dear Governors,
Welcome to our new half termly governance update which will keep you informed of forthcoming activities and events delivered by the LA Schools' Governance Service as well as highlighting some of the recent issues impacting education and Governance.

Training and updates

As part of the support given to governing boards, the LA Schools' Governance Service provides termly training:

Spring term – Understanding Schools Funding an online session will be delivered by the Finance team – a date before the end of term will be confirmed soon.

Summer term – Governors Networking Event. Wednesday 18 June 2025 6pm to 7.30pm in the Civic Centre.

National School Governors' Awareness Day Thursday 13 February.
To celebrate the work of school governors, Governors for schools are running a free online event for governors to attend. They will be delivering seven live sessions throughout the day, each focussing on key governance topics for 2025.

The informative webinars will look at a range of issues that are currently impacting school governance including regulatory challenges as well as practical advice for your role as a governor. Please do take advantage of this opportunity and to further develop your governance knowledge. Please click on the link below for more details and to sign up for as many workshops as you wish.
National School Governors' Awareness Day - Governors for Schools

Please find the links below to the recordings to the governor sessions that have already been delivered this academic year.

Achievement for All – Tuesday 21 January
An overview of the Council's new Education Strategy and the area wide priorities for the next few years, with a particular focus on disadvantaged children.

A recording of the session and slides ***here***.

Other training sessions delivered so far this year can also be found here: *Training Sessions for Governors 2024/25 - Leap*

School attendance

Improving attendance is a key focus for the DfE and is part of Hillingdon's Education Strategy 2024-29. It is a strategic priority for most schools and as governors you'll need to be more to be involved in monitoring your school's progress and policies. A focus for governing boards will be to:

1. Recognise the importance of school attendance and promote it across the school's ethos and policies
2. Make sure your school leaders fulfil expectations and statutory duties
3. Regularly review attendance data and help leaders focus improvement efforts on pupils who need it
4. Make sure school staff receive adequate training on attendance.

For more information and questions to ask about improving attendance see the document from The Key below and the School attendance guidance from the DfE.

KeyDoc_questions_to_ask_leaders_about_improving_school_attendance_2024.docx

Working together to improve school attendance - GOV.UK

The Department for Education (DfE) recently hosted a webinar on improving attendance:

Improving attendance:How to use data to support and challenge school leaders DfE/GovernorHub webinar

New guidance for governors on their SEND responsibilities

The DfE has published new guidance to help governing boards understand their role in supporting pupils with SEND. This guidance aims to empower governors and trustees to hold their schools accountable and ensure effective SEND provision. Read the guidance in full ***here***.

For enquiries, contact

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