



# Schools Governors Update



Dear Governors,

As we approach the end of the school year, which is always a busy time. I hope that you are able to take some time as governing boards and reflect on this years' activities within the school and plan for the next academic year.

As is often at the end of term, some governors will leave your board. This provides an excellent opportunity for self review and carrying out a skills audit. For those boards with access to Governor Hub please note the new board effectiveness tool which collates all your board members' skills, experience and knowledge in one place. Enabling you to evaluate strengths and weaknesses in different areas, identify development and training needs and identify governors with experience in specific tasks.

In preparation for the Autumn term the break over the summer is a perfect opportunity for you undertake additional training. If you have access to on-line governor training e.g The Key, NCSL or the NGA there is a huge variety of modules available enabling you to learn at you own time and pace.

## Governor Training

Thank you to those who have attended trainings in this academic year, and to those governors who attended the recent network event we hope you have found these useful. Another governors networking event will be held in the spring term.

To continue building on our training provision for Governors, we have scheduled a range of training for the autumn term. Most are online but please note the Suspensions & Exclusions training will be held in person. Please see below for the details of all the trainings with links to the registration forms.

### **Introduction to Understanding Governor responsibilities in Suspensions and Exclusions.**

An in-person session delivered by Neil Kenny the LA's Lead Officer for Exclusions on Thursday 18 September at 6pm in the Civic Centre.

*Understanding Suspensions and Exclusions Registration Form*

**School Food Matters - How Governors can support the Healthy Schools Initiative.** An online session delivered by Julia Heggie Lead Officer in the Public Health team on Tuesday 30 September at 6pm.  
*Supporting Healthy Schools Initiative Registration Form*

**Safeguarding Training for Governors 2025/2026.** A mandatory training for all governors. An online session will be delivered by Michael Hawkins, Head of Education and Lifelong Learning on Wednesday 15 October at 6pm. *Safeguarding Training for Governors 2025/2026 Registration Form*

**Understanding the Ofsted Inspection Updates for School Governors.** An online training will be delivered by Jason Hughes, Primary Education Advisor, on Tuesday 18 November at 6pm. *Understanding Ofsted Inspection Updates for School Governors Registration Form*

**An Overview of Schools Finance for Governors – Knowing your Responsibilities.** An online training will be delivered by Ndenko Asong, Strategic Finance Consultant on Monday 1st December at 6pm. *An Overview of Schools Finance for Governors – Knowing your Responsibilities Registration Form*

**Managing Allegations Against Staff and Volunteers Training (Various dates available).** An in-person training delivered by the LADO (Hannah Ives) for those involved in managing allegations against staff and volunteers. The course is multi-agency so provides opportunities to network and understand the responsibilities of other organisations involved in the LADO process.

It will outline the LADO process and guidance around conducting internal investigations. It also explores how to create a safe culture within your schools and will include case studies based on true scenarios that have arisen in Hillingdon settings. *Managing allegations against staff and volunteers Registration Form*

Further trainings will be scheduled for the Spring Term and will share these with you as soon as dates are confirmed. Please send any suggestions for topics that you would like covered for future training.

## Previous events

Please see the link below to access all the recordings to the governor sessions that have been delivered this academic year. *Training Sessions for Governors 2024/25 - Leap*

### Hillingdon Schools Forum

The Schools Forum meets each half term to discuss a wide range of topics affecting schools. Membership of the SF include representatives from schools including governors. The next meeting is on Tuesday 8 July 2025, 1pm via Teams. These are public meetings so if you would like to attend or would like more information about the Hillingdon Schools Forum, please see our webpage *Hillingdon Schools Forum*

### DfE Guidance Update for Governors: SEN:

Links below are to relevant guidance and resources for governors of academies and local-authority-maintained schools have been updated. 'SEN and disability duties: guidance for school governing boards' has been added to the 'Safeguarding, SEND and pupil wellbeing' section. *Local-authority-maintained schools: governance - GOV.UK*

### Safeguarding – KCSIE

The DfE have announced that Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2025 will now be published later in July. However, it will not include the substantive updates that were expected and there will only be some technical changes to the policy this year. Though it is expected to include links to revised guidance on relationships, sex and health education and on gender questioning children.

### Update on Ofsted Consultation

Ofsted received 6500 responses to its public consultation and had planned to publish its response to the consultation to reform inspections in the summer, before introducing the new inspections in November. They have now announced it will not be ready to publish this until early September.

The original timeline would have ensured a notice period equivalent to one term between the publication of the post-consultation response and inspection materials and the start of education inspections. This would allow the inspectorate to "ensure that providers and inspectors feel well prepared for the new inspections". Schools will now not have as much time to prepare as Ofsted are continuing with its plan to roll out new report card inspections in November.

### School Meals

With the recent government announcement that from September 2026 school year, every pupil whose household is on Universal Credit will have a new entitlement to free school meals. Sadiq Khan as Mayor of London has extended the universal free school meals scheme to all KS2 children for the next academic year. It is clear giving children access to a nutritious meal during the school day also leads

to higher attainment, improved behaviour and better outcomes. It is the statutory responsibility of the governing body to ensure the School Foods Standards are being met and Ofsted are putting a much greater focus on how schools are creating a culture and ethos of healthy eating. There have been recent updates in DfE document **School food standards practical guide** and **School food: guidance for governors**.

*School food standards: resources for schools - GOV.UK*  
*School food: guidance for governors - GOV.UK*

### Reminder that schools are to review and publish details of their PE and sport premium funding (primary schools)

You need to publish how you've spent the PE and sport premium funding by 31 July at the latest.

You're required to publish on each school's website:

- The amount of primary PE and sport premium received
- A full breakdown of how it has been spent (including justifying any additional costs incurred)
- Details of the impact of the funding on pupils' PE attainment, physical activity and sport participation
- Details of how the spend will be sustainable in the future
- The percentage of pupils within your year 6 cohort in the 2024/25 academic year who met the National Curriculum swimming and water safety requirements

### Governor Surveys – Your opinion matters

The Key is currently conducting a short survey exploring governors' understanding of and views on school readiness. If you wish to take part, please click the link below;

*Kindred Squared and The Key survey regarding readiness for school*

LA Governance Service wish to extend its sincere thanks for the effort and commitment you put into your role as a governor. Your invaluable contributions, thoughtful decisions, along with the support and challenge you give, significantly contributes to the well-being and success of our schools.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable summer break and looking forward continue working with you making a positive impact on our schools.

Please do not hesitate to contact the LA Schools' Governance Service if you have any queries.

## LA Schools' Governance Service

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Please access education information via *LEAP*