



# Schools Governors Update



Dear Governors,  
Welcome to our first half termly governance update of the new school year. I hope the term has started well and your governing boards are preparing to strategically support their schools in the year ahead.

These newsletters 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.

#### Hillingdon Council training and updates

As part of our ongoing commitment to support governing boards in Hillingdon schools, the LA's Schools' Governance Service is offering training on a variety of topics this term. All training is free to attend.

## Upcoming Events

### Introduction to understanding Governor Responsibilities in Suspensions and Exclusions - Monday 3 November 2025 at 6pm, Civic Centre, Uxbridge UB8 1UW

This is planned as an In-Person training session which will be delivered by the lead officer for exclusions. It will provide an overview, outlining the essential knowledge and skills needed to effectively understand the responsibilities of a governor in suspensions and exclusions. It will be a practical session with case studies and examples for you to discuss.

[To sign up, fill in the registration form.](#)

### Understanding the Ofsted Inspection Updates for School Governors - Tuesday 18 November 2025 at 6pm

An online session will be delivered by Jason Hughes, Primary Education Advisor.

[To sign up, fill in the registration form.](#)

### An Overview of Schools Finance for Governors, Knowing your Responsibilities - Monday 1 December 2025

An online session will be delivered by Ndenko Asong, Strategic Finance Consultant.

[To register, fill in the form.](#)

## Previous events

Details of all previous events can be found on [The Hillingdon LEAP website.](#)

### National Governance Association (NGA) Outstanding Governance Awards 2025 - Celebrating Excellence in School Governance

We are delighted to announce that Amy Doody, Clerk to several schools in Hillingdon, has been honoured as the winner in the category of the NGA Outstanding Clerk to a Governing Board at a recent event held at the Houses of Parliament. Amy was nominated by Frithwood Primary School in recognition of her dedication, professionalism, and the outstanding support she provides to the school's governing board.

We wish to extend our heartfelt congratulations to Amy for this achievement. This recognition not only celebrates Amy's individual accomplishments but also highlights the vital role that clerks play in supporting effective governance within schools. We are proud to have Amy as part of our community and thank her for her continued efforts and exemplary service.

### National Agenda for Governance – Update to Department for Education (DfE) governance documents

Please [see the newly published DfE governance update](#) for professionals and governing boards.

### Get Information About Schools (GIAS)

All governance boards for state maintained establishments and academy trusts are required to provide information about people involved in governance for their organisation via GIAS. This information is used by the DfE and key partners, update systems, perform analysis and inform policy decisions, some of which carry funding implications.

The LA's new EYES database will also draw information from GIAS. It is essential that each school keeps their GIAS entry up to date. Can you please remind schools of this obligation. It is usually managed by the SBM.

### **Help the DfE understand your role in supporting school improvement**

The Department for Education's DfE Schools Digital team is researching how schools and governing bodies identify and evaluate support and strategies that drive improvement. This research will inform the development of the DfE's 'Regional Improvement in Standards and Excellence' (RISE) universal support offer for all schools.

The DfE would like to hear from anyone working in a school, trust, council or diocese involved in school improvement.

[Please complete the short sign-up form to take part.](#)

### **Ofsted**

Following on from the recent consultations, Ofsted have recently confirmed a renewed approach to education inspection, effective from November 2025. It will include the introduction of a new-look report cards, a five-point grading scale, and focus on inclusion for disadvantaged and vulnerable children. The changes aim to provide parents with better and more detailed information, ensuring fairer treatment of professionals, and raising standards for all children.

See the summary below from the National Governance Association outlining the changes.

#### **What governors should pay attention to:**

- Inclusion: Be prepared to evidence how your school supports special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and disadvantaged pupils. Governors should know the impact of strategies, not just the policies
- Parental view: The new report cards are designed for parents. Consider how your school communicates strengths and areas for development beyond inspection reports

- Wellbeing: Inspector focus on workload and context is a signal to boards; staff wellbeing is integral to effective leadership and governance
- Continuous readiness: With clearer evaluation areas, governors can use them to shape monitoring, ensuring you're inspection-ready every day; not just when Ofsted calls.

[For more information, see the NGA's summary of Ofsted's new approach to school inspections from November 2025.](#)

### **Safeguarding – KCSIE 2025**

The DfE have now published the new Keeping Children Safe in Education guidelines.

The updates for this year focus on:

- the DfE's Working Together to Improve School Attendance, which is now statutory guidance
- changes to the list of content risks under online safety, adding in disinformation, misinformation and conspiracy theories
- more information on the DfE guidance on generative artificial intelligence (AI)
- additional information on, and clarity around, alternative provision guidance
- clarity on virtual school heads and their non-statutory responsibilities around children in kinship care.

[For more information, see the DfE's keeping children safe in education guidance.](#)

### **LA Schools' Governance Service**

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Please access education information via [LEAP](#)