

SPRING TERM 2025

NORTHUMBERLAND SCHOOL GOVERNORS NEWSLETTER

Happy New Year!

Welcome back to the Spring term of this academic year. We hope the holidays provided a time for you to relax and recharge.

Your focus for the Spring Term should be based around Pupil Attendance. With national attendance rates being a key concern, governors are encouraged to work with senior leaders to address persistent absences, review attendance data regularly and explore targeted interventions to support families and improve attendance rates. The mental health of pupils and staff continues to be a pressing issue. Governors should inquire about wellbeing initiatives, ensuring there are robust systems to support mental health, and that staff workloads are manageable.

Our SLA portal will open soon and if you would like to discuss your governance support for next academic year please get in touch on the contact details below. We have schools choosing to move to our enhanced service so that we can prepare and support at committee meetings as well as the full governing board. This means we are able to help manage governance at all levels.

Vicki Evans



USEFUL CONTACTS

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SCHOOL GOVERNANCE AND DATA
PROTECTION MANAGER
(TUES- FRI)
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SCHOOL GOVERNANCE AND DATA PROTECTION OFFICERS

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NEWS & UPDATES- MAINTAINED SCHOOLS

Key Updates for Governors

Funding and Budget Planning

The Department for Education (DfE) has released the spring budget for maintained schools, highlighting the crucial role of governors in scrutinising and approving these budgets. It is essential to ensure that resources are allocated effectively, with a focus on staffing, SEND provision, and building maintenance. Be aware of the upcoming deadlines for submitting financial reports to maintain compliance and accountability.

Ofsted Framework Updates

Recent revisions to the Ofsted Education Inspection Framework (EIF) stress the importance of curriculum depth and leadership in addressing inequalities. Governors should prioritize keeping curriculum reviews current and supporting school leaders in maintaining high educational standards.

Safeguarding Responsibilities

Safeguarding is a top priority, and governors must ensure policies align with Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024. This includes confirming that all staff training is completed and conducting thorough reviews of safeguarding audits to pinpoint areas needing improvement.

Governor Training and Development Opportunities

The National Governance Association (NGA) is offering new training courses this spring, focusing on effective challenge and support. Governors are encouraged to utilize these opportunities to enhance their oversight capabilities. Access to NGA Learning Link is available as part of the Standard and Enhanced service level agreements. For further information, contact your Governance Professional.

Future Training Initiatives

Starting in September 2025, a new training initiative will be available online via Teams, offering live participation for governors. Topics will include school complaints, careers programs, induction, and effective chairing. Although this launch has been delayed, governors can currently access ten online modules to continue their development [here](#).



CHAIRS AND VICE CHAIRS BRIEFING

This terms briefing will take place on **Wednesday 29th January 2025 at 6pm** online via Microsoft Teams. Information on how to sign up for the session will be sent to you soon.

If your meeting occurs before this date and you require assistance with the agenda or meeting facilitation, please reach out to your School Governance Officer.