

SPRING TERM 2026

NORTHUMBERLAND SCHOOL GOVERNORS NEWSLETTER

Dear Governors,

As we begin the spring term, I would like to thank you for your continued commitment to the children, families and communities of Northumberland. The spring is often one of the busiest and most important points in the school year, bringing with it opportunities to review progress, reflect on priorities and ensure strong foundations are in place for the months ahead. Your strategic oversight and dedication as governors remain central to supporting effective leadership, maintaining high standards and promoting positive outcomes for all pupils.

Over the coming term, governing boards will be focusing on key areas including pupil progress, budget planning, safeguarding and preparation for the next stages of the academic year. The governance team is here to support you in this work, whether through advice, training or guidance on statutory responsibilities and best practice. I encourage you to make full use of the support available and to continue sharing your experiences and insights, as strong, informed governance is vital to the success of our wonderful Northumberland schools.

Vicki Evans



USEFUL CONTACTS

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NEWS & UPDATES - MAINTAINED SCHOOLS

Key Updates for Governors

Guidance on School Food

The governing board are responsible for the provision of school food. As a governor you play a crucial role in creating and embedding a great school food culture. It is the statutory responsibility of the governing board and trustees to ensure the [School Food Standards](#) are being met and [Ofsted](#) are putting a much greater focus on how schools are creating a culture and ethos of healthy eating.

National School Governors Awareness Day

National School Governors Awareness Day is on **Thursday, 12th February 2026**, and it is your chance to gain practical insights, celebrate outstanding governors, and connect with like-minded education professionals, all in one dynamic online event.

This day-long programme brings together leading experts and experienced governors and trustees to explore key topics that shape effective governance today. Whether you are a seasoned governor or trustee, a school leader, or considering joining a governing board, this event is packed with actionable advice and invaluable networking opportunities.

Explore the complete programme below and register [here](#).

Schools Forum & SEND Partnership Board Volunteers

Any Chairs or Vice Chairs who would like to be involved in shaping the future provision for Northumberland learners with SEND by taking part in School's Forum or the SEND Partnership Board should contact david.street@northumberland.gov.uk with an expression of interest.

Ofsted Inspection Framework and Governance

Ofsted has published the new education inspection framework, detailing the parameters for inspection from November. Leadership and Governance is an area of evaluation featuring in inspections across Early Years settings, schools and further education and skills providers. There is no longer an 'overall effectiveness' grade; each area of evaluation will be graded using a five point scale. For each of the five points there is an indicator around governance. Governors should take the time to read about the new framework and the key indicators relating to the role of governing board. Page 74-80 of this [document](#).

A message from NGA Learning Link...

On 1 April 2026, we'll be launching a completely new Learning Link platform! This has been shaped by your feedback and will make it easier to find, access and manage your learning. To make sure your learning record is protected, please complete any in-progress learning by **29 March 2026**. Any learning started after this date will not transfer to the new system. While we expect completed training to carry over, we strongly recommend downloading your certificates as you go, just to be safe.

We'll be sharing much more detail over the coming months, including step-by-step guidance and short video tutorials, to make the transition as smooth as possible. Keep an eye on NGA emails and updates for the latest information.



Complaints Training for School Governors

Vicki Evans, School Governance Manager, will be leading training on the NCC School Complaints Procedure on the following dates;

- Tuesday, 31st March at 6pm online via Teams
- Tuesday, 12th May at 6pm online via Teams
- Tuesday, 7th July at 12 noon online via Teams

Details on how to sign up will be sent in due course.