

GOVERNANCE NEWS

Governance Update — Autumn 2020

Issue 2

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Turbulent Times!

In these turbulent times, Governor support is more important than ever. Whilst visiting the school may not be an option for the next four weeks, keeping in touch and supporting the Senior Leadership Team will be crucial, as they navigate their way through this new lockdown.

It was lovely to meet some new Governors at our recent training and to speak about SIAMS to a large group last week. More training opportunities will be available in the new year.

Thank you again for the vital work you do in our schools.

Caroline Vinall

Senior Officer for SIAMS, RE & Governance

(Please click on underlined links to contact and / or register)

Statutory Information

- The Government has a comprehensive list of statutory information, which should be published on your website. Please ensure that someone from your GB is tasked to conduct a **website audit** using this information for [maintained schools](#) and [academies](#).
- All members of the GB should be issued with a **school e-mail address** for all formal correspondence. This may be forwarded to a private e-mail account, however no Governor should be using their private e-mail address to correspond in their role as a Governor.
- Please ensure that the **Chair of Governors' school e-mail** is clearly displayed on the school's website. It is not sufficient to access the Chair of Governors through the school office, as it is a statutory requirement to have the CoG contact on the website.

Governing Body Details / Changes

- A plea to clerks to update all GB details with the Local Authority / Government website. Please could clerks also ensure that the diocese is included in changes to the Governing Body.
- We also have some schools where we cannot contact the clerk directly —if you have not yet done so, please could Chairs contact [Sally Batchelder](#) with the name and e-mail address of your clerk?

FG Nominations and re-applications

- The next meeting of the DBE will be on February 10th. Please ensure that any completed Foundation Governor nominations / re-applications are received in scanned e-mail format by the 3rd February 2021.

Admissions (VA Schools)

- Voluntary Aided Schools wishing to change their admissions arrangements for the academic year 2022, should ensure that this goes out to consultation. Consultation partners are the LA and individual schools (request a list of your consultation schools [here](#)). Even if you have no changes to make to admissions or the oversubscription criteria, the GB must conduct and make record of a detailed yearly review of the admissions policy and oversubscription criteria to ensure compliance with the Schools Admissions Code (2014). If you are unsure about this, then please contact Caroline Vinall.

Governor Guidance

- New Diocese of Ely Governor Guidance has been produced regarding nominations / removals of foundation governors and the ex-officio role. Please download from our [website](#).

RE News

- The Diocese of Ely is in the process of endorsing use of the Emmanuel Project. The scheme of work is flexible for VA / VC and Community schools and can be used in its entirety or alongside Understanding Christianity. HTs have been informed and they may brief you on the new scheme.
- It is good practice to have RE clearly documented as part of roles and responsibilities. At least one member of the Governing Body should be aware of the [RE Statement of Entitlement](#) and how the school has structured its RE curriculum according to its status as VC / VA school.

Diary Dates

**24th or 26th
November**

RE Assessment workshops
(Emmanuel Project) 2-4pm
Zoom

2021

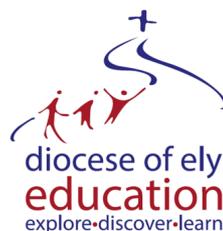
**19th / 24th / 26th
January**

RE Class teacher workshops (in Key Stages)
2-4pm Zoom

January (TBC)
Governor Training
Zoom

3rd February
Deadline for FG nominations

10th February
DBE meeting



**Diocese of Ely
Senior Officer
SIAMS, RE &
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**Caroline
Vinall**

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