



# GOVERNANCE NEWS

Governance Update — Spring 2021 Issue 3

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## Thank you all!

We talk about 20:20 vision, but 2020 is probably a year upon which we would prefer not to look back in detail. Nevertheless, your efforts and the efforts of the staff in schools have been driven by your Christian vision—however embedded that vision may be. Thank you for all your efforts to support schools over the past months. It is difficult to be a 'hands-on' remote Governor and we are all finding our way.

So please do look back on 2020 with clear 20:20 vision, spotting those crucial moments, when the thread holding it together was the golden thread of your school's Christian vision. Celebrate those moments of light in the darkness and thank those who made it possible as we move into similarly challenging circumstances in 2021.

**Caroline Vinall** Senior Officer for SIAMS, RE & Governance

### Support from Andrew Read—Director of Education

Andrew would like an opportunity to speak to all Governors in any forthcoming virtual governor meeting where possible (daytime or evenings), to offer his heartfelt thanks for the schools work and to ensure that you know how the Diocese of Ely Education Team is continuing to support schools at this difficult time. Of course, this also provides a Q&A opportunity where helpful: He is also keen to hear of concerns for use in his ongoing meetings with central DfE and Ministers in his role on the national exec and Cambridgeshire County Council Children's Committee.

Please let Andrew's PA, Sally Batchelder [education@elydiocese.org](mailto:education@elydiocese.org) know the dates and time of your meeting, and he will endeavour to attend as many meetings as possible.

### HT Wellbeing

It is crucial that governance continues remotely, even during lockdown. However, Headteachers are under tremendous pressure at the moment. Is there a member of your GB, who is not on the PM Panel, who could take responsibility for checking HT wellbeing?

### Statutory Information—reminder

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 the **Chair of Governors' school e-mail** is clearly displayed on the school's website. Unfortunately, it is not sufficient to contact the Chair through the school office.

### SIAMS News

The Church of England Education Office issued the following statement regarding Section 48 SIAMS inspections:

**Following the announcement by the government on 3<sup>rd</sup> December that Ofsted graded inspections will remain suspended until the summer term we can confirm that SIAMS inspections will not resume until summer term of 2021 at the earliest. We will be working with the Department for Education and the other section 48 providers to consider the most effective and supportive way of resuming SIAMS inspection.**

This means that there are 19 schools, whose inspections will now be deferred into the academic year 2021-2022. The HTs of these schools have been informed of this change.

Support is available to schools in the academic year BEFORE inspection. This may take the form of staff or governor training / support conversations etc. Please discuss your needs with your HT and contact Caroline Vinall to arrange support.

### FG Nominations and re-applications

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

### Building Surveyor

We welcome Paul Inskip to the Education Team as newly appointed Building Surveyor. His role will be to assist VA schools with building projects under the SCA(VA) scheme - formerly LCVAP.

### 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

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 designation as a VC / VA school.

## Diary Dates

2021

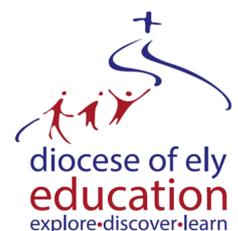
**3rd February**  
Deadline for FG nominations

**10th February**  
DBE meeting

**23rd February**  
FG Training—new FGs / refresher Zoom 7-8pm

**16th March**  
HT Forum

**June (TBC)**  
Diocesan Virtual 'slow' conference for all HTs / Governors



**Diocese of Ely  
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