



Go-Governance

A Newsletter for Governors and Clerks

Introduction

Welcome to this edition of *Go-Governance*. It comes very soon after Issue 9 in January, but rather than delay some of the articles until later in the year, I'm sending this edition now.

Local Leaders of Governance (LLG)

Keith Clover, the Teaching School Council South West Governance Lead, has informed us that they are now looking to appoint Local Leaders of Governance. Support and training will be through the Teaching Schools Council (TSC). Keith has provided the following link and information:

The appointment process is all going to be driven through the TSC portal <https://www.cpdportal-sw.org/index.php/news/73-local-leaders-of-governance>

On this portal you can download the flyer, the application form and the reference request forms. There is also going to be a handbook published very shortly which should answer many questions you may have. Some further information is below:

What are Local Leaders of Governance?

The Teaching School Council South West (TSCSW) are developing a team of Local Leaders of Governance (LLGs) to work alongside the already established team of National Leaders of Governance (NLGs).

Leaders of Governance are a crucial part of the self-improving and sustainable school-led system as they improve the quality and capacity of governance. National Leaders of Governance are now managed at a regional level by the Teaching School Council in each of nine regions. To learn more about the role in the South West, visit <https://www.cpdportal-sw.org/index.php/governance-and-leadership>

Local Leaders of Governance will be carefully selected to en-

sure that they have the appropriate experience, skills and knowledge. They will be provided with induction, training and support.

What do they do?

Local Leaders of Governance respond to the needs of individual chairs, schools and trust boards, helping governors to help themselves. They will undertake deployments into other schools, for example:

- Mentoring chairs and governors
- Chairing and/or being a member of an interim executive board (IEB)
- Joining a governing board of a school in need of support
- Mediating difficult relationships
- Providing a fresh pair of eyes: even the best practitioners can improve

Deployments may be re-

requested by LAs, Dioceses, RSC, heads, chairs, Teaching Schools or Multi Academy Trusts (MATs) and will be brokered by the Project Manager and the three Regional Governance Leads.

Who can apply?

There is no requirement for the school of an applicant to be in a good/outstanding Ofsted category, but applicants should fulfil the following criteria:

- Have at least 3 years' governance experience as a member of a Trust board, chairing local board/committee in a MAT, or serving on a local authority school body within the last 4 years, with 2 of those years in a chairing role
- Be able to commit to the time expectation of providing 5 days free support each year. Applicants should also be able to demonstrate a track record of:
 - providing governance leading to school improvement
 - management of positive relationships
 - the ability to use mentoring and coaching skills

The Application Process

Part A: Complete an application form and provide two references on the relevant forms (one from your current school and one from an external source, preferably related to governance).

Part B: Your Regional Governance Lead will contact you to arrange a brief telephone conversation.

Part C: Attend an induction day to ensure on both sides that there is a good fit between the requirements, the team, and the individual. The first induction day is in Taunton on **Sat 16th March** between 10am and 3pm, (save the date now if you think you may apply) but please

don't worry if you cannot make this date, as there are regular induction days.

If you have any questions before applying, please contact the Project Manager: <https://www.cpdportal-sw.org/index.php/contact/12-julia-steward>

N.B. We are currently looking to work with Julia and the Teaching Alliance to see if we could establish a group for Catholic LLE's in order to specifically support Catholic schools.

Consideration Point: Experienced governors to consider joining the LLG programme.

Briefings sessions for Governors & Clerks

We have finalised the dates & venues for our Briefing sessions for the summer term. These are as follows (all from 7.00-8.30pm):

Samuel: 13 May -
Holy Family Primary, Swindon
Camino: 22 May -
St Gregory's College, Bath
Emmaus: 13 June -
St George Primary, Warminster
Dunstan: 19 June -
St Joseph's Primary, Bridgwater
Newman: 26 June -
St Bede's College, Bristol
Gloucestershire: 3 July -
St Mary's Primary, Churchdown
Aquinas: 10 July -
St Brendan's Sixth Form College,
Bristol.

Whilst a session has been arranged within each Partnership Group, you are welcome to attend whichever session is most convenient for you.

The sessions are intended to help you in any areas you feel you may like support.

The agenda for the sessions has not been set and we are very open to your ideas on what should be included. The following have been mooted as possible topics:

Strategic Leadership - the differences between strategic and operational

Finance - and compliance on all the new regulations.

Aspiring Chairs & Succession Planning.

Action on Data (after interpretation.)

However, we need you to let us know which of the above list you would like to be covered, or if you have any other suggestions.

Action Point: *Governors & Clerks to let me know at bill.mcentee@cliftondiocese.com what topics you would like to be included in the Briefing session **by 20 April.***

The Briefing sessions we held in the Autumn were very well received - the only difficulty was trying to establish how many were attending from each school. To ensure that each session is viable and to help the host school with catering and providing tables & chairs, we need to have a good indication of how many are likely to attend a session from each school. We would like as many of you as possible to attend and would like each school to be as well represented as possible. To avoid having to bombard Chairs & Clerks with emails, please could **every governor** let their Clerk to Governors know as soon as possible if they are likely to be attending a Briefing this summer term and then

please can each **Clerk** inform me of the numbers (not names) attending from their school, no later than 14 days before the Briefing date for your particular Partnership. Your cooperation with this would be greatly appreciated and would help to make things easier for all concerned.

Action Point: *Governors to inform their Clerks if they will be attending and Clerks to let me know at bill.mcentee@cliftondiocese.com no later than 14 days before the date of the Briefing for your Partnership.*

Admission Arrangements 2020-21

As mentioned in the last edition, please may I just repeat that governing bodies, if they have not already done so, are legally required to determine their admission arrangements for 2020-21 **by 28 February 2019** at the latest. Once determined, the **School Admissions Code** (please see page 19 for full details) specifies that schools must send a copy of them to the Diocese, your LA & post them on their website. Schools must also notify parents, the governing bodies of all other schools within the Relevant Area (RA) (unless you have arranged with your LA for them to do this for you). The RA is determined by your LA. If you're not sure what your RA is, please contact your LA for details. The Code requires this to be completed **by 15 March 2019** at the latest (otherwise schools may lose appeal hearings and/or be referred to the School's Adjudicator).

Action Point: *Arrangements to be determined in accordance with the requirements of the School Admissions Code.*

Common Admission Arrangements 2021-22

The Mission & Ethos Committee recently recommended to CCDEF that a common set of admission arrangements, with standardised over-subscription criteria, be introduced for all our primary schools. This recommendation was accepted by CCDEF and will be introduced for the 2021-22 school year. Whilst the main oversubscription criteria categories to be used have been determined, work will now begin on producing a complete set of arrangements. Once this has been agreed, each primary school will need to undertake a formal consultation on the arrangements in the Autumn of 2019. Further details will be provided during the year ahead.

Governor & Clerk Training

In the last edition, I highlighted the excellent increase in governors attending training provided by the Diocese. Our training sessions for Clerks for this year have now been completed and I'm pleased to report that more Clerks attended this year than in recent years, so many thanks to all who were able to attend.

There are three more Governor Training sessions scheduled for this school year. These are **Induction** Training (for anyone who has not previously attended it) on 9 March and 6 June and **Refresher** Training on 27 April.

Feedback provided by those who have recently attended our training, has included the following comments:

"It was a really useful overview of the role of a governor in a Catholic School - I learned a lot, so it was all beneficial"

"I found all of it beneficial - it was a really good

refresher"

"I really enjoyed meeting everyone and really did learn a huge amount"

"Would be great if it was a whole day!"

"I found all the course was beneficial"

Please would all governors, not just Foundation, who have not recently attended one of our sessions, please consider doing so. Details of how to book your place are in our booklet available under [Courses on our website](#)

Consideration Point: All Clerks and governors to consider attending our training.

School governors - today's unsung heroes!

Last summer I was asked to write something for the 'Thought for the Day' column in the Bristol Post newspaper. So, I provided the following article, which I hope conveys how much we, in the Diocese, appreciate all of our governors and what you do for our children and schools:

'I want to give something back' - What does it mean?

When people are asked why they have chosen to undertake an unpaid voluntary role, I often hear the answer 'because I wanted to give something back'. I've sometimes not been entirely sure what has actually been meant by that response and it's been used so often that it has become a 'stock answer' and a bit of a cliché.

The fact that so many people do give so much of their spare time for the benefit of other people is of course wonderful and is to be commended and there are so many different ways in which people do so - from working in charity shops, collecting money outside supermarkets for good causes, hospital helpers - the list is endless! I'm especially impressed with those take on roles that appear 'particularly arduous' such as running a child's football team (could you cope with 'pushy

parents?') or Police Community Support Officers who often have to face the same dangers as their professional counterparts.

One such voluntary role that our society totally depends on is that of a school governor. Without these particular volunteers, our schools simply would have no-one to run them and our children would be denied an education. They really are the unsung heroes of today!

These governors are often an example of people who want to 'give something back'. Many became a governor at the school that they or their children attended, as they see it as giving back to the school that has helped to shape their or their children's lives. Others do it because it gives something back to their Church parish and/or their local community. Others just want to help improve the educational outcomes for children. Many use their experience from their professions to help run our schools.

I'm sure there are times when some governors may feel that the pressure to please parents, staff, OfSTED etc. may make them think that their voluntary role is a thankless task and is in the 'particularly arduous' category (like child's football team coach and Police Community Support Officer). However, many continue to do it and receive the benefit of knowing that they are having a real impact on the lives of our children and are truly 'giving something back'.

Next Issue

If there are any issues or indeed celebratory things you would like to see included in any future issue, please just let me know - I'd love to hear from you.

Bill

Bill McEntee

Governance Officer

0117 9025599

bill.mcentee@cliftondiocese.com

