



Department for Schools and Colleges

Go-Governance - a newsletter for Governors and Clerks

Issue 15 - April 2020

Introduction

Welcome to the third edition of this school year. I hope you had a happy and holy Easter, although I'm sure that due to the current situation, it must have been a very unusual one for everyone this year.

1) Coronavirus

We're very grateful for all the work undertaken by school staff and governors during these extremely difficult times. We've been made aware of one governor, who at the time of writing, is seriously ill in hospital due to the coronavirus and we would ask you to pray for him and his family.

We hope that having virtual attendance governor meetings is working well for you. We're receiving various helpful updates on guidance for governors and we've posted some of them on our website and will add more as we receive them at <https://schools.cliftondiocese.com/governance> so just click on the new GOVID-19 tab to access them.

We've unfortunately had to cancel our Governor Refresher training session, that was scheduled for 25 April. A decision on the Governor Induction training session scheduled for 4 June, will be made nearer the time. The timetable of

training sessions scheduled for the 2020-21 school year, will be made available during this summer term.

As previously mentioned, the Catholic Education Service (CES) has introduced some online training for governors. The first two modules 'An Introduction to Catholic Education' and 'The Environment and Language of Catholic Education' are on the CES Formatio Virtual Learning Environment website <http://formatio-ces.org/moodle/login/index.php>. Whilst these modules are intended to support, rather than being instead of our Diocesan training, they can help fill the gap if we do have to cancel our training sessions and are of course, open to all governors of any category, at any time. I hope you find them useful.



2) Updated New Safeguarding DBS Protocol

Thank you to those who have provided helpful feedback on the new DBS protocol. Because under the new protocol DBS clearance is obtained more quickly, it helps to protect children and avoid potential problems for governing bodies and the Bishop.

The protocol has been altered to reflect the feedback, in particular, that Section 128 clearance must also be obtained as a separate check, for all governors and recorded on the Single Central Register. The updated protocol (dated April 2020) replaces the March versions and is on our website <https://schools.cliftdiocese.com/governance> - just click on the Recruitment tab.



The main feature of the protocol is that DBS clearance must be obtained before the governor commences their term of office. However, as governors during the current coronavirus situation should not compromise their own and school's staff safety by visiting schools to bring their DBS documentation in, we will temporarily allow governors to start their role and for their DBS clearance to be obtained within 6 weeks of schools being reopened. If this is not undertaken, then unfortunately a suspension may have to be introduced.

3) Admission Arrangements for 2021-22

Many thanks for determining your admission arrangements for 2021-22 by the legal deadline of 28 February, particularly if it required rescheduling your meeting timetable to do so. Whilst most schools have fulfilled the legal requirement to post their determined arrangements on their website and to send them to the Diocese, their LA and notify parents, other schools etc., some are yet to do so and should do so as soon as possible.

The Department for Education has advised that an In-Year application form should be part of admission arrangements and I shall be contacting schools in the near future, about this and any other requirements needed to ensure legally compliant admissions policies.

Next Issue

Many thanks for all that you're doing to support our schools, which at this difficult time, is appreciated more than ever. As I'm working from home, please email or call my mobile number below, if you need to contact me.

Bill McEntee

Governance Officer

Mobile: 07710094976

bill.mcentee@cliftondiocese.com