



Department for Schools and Colleges

Go-Governance - a newsletter for Governors, Directors and Clerks

Issue 29 - March 2023

Introduction

Welcome to the second edition of *Go-Governance* of the 2022-23 school year.

1) Admission Arrangements 2024-25

Just a reminder that governors were required to set determined admission arrangements for 2024-25 by 28 February. If you have not yet set yours, please do as quickly as possible and circulate them in line with paragraph 1.50 of the School Admissions Code <https://schools.cliftondiocese.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/New-Code.pdf>

2) Apologies for non-attendance at meetings

Just a reminder that it is very important that apologies for non-attendance at governor meetings are **not** automatically accepted. The reasons given for the absence should be considered by those present and if deemed satisfactory, they should be recorded as 'accepted' in the minutes. If, however, they were not considered acceptable (or if no apologies have been offered), they should be recorded as 'absent without consent'.

Why is this so important? Because DfE statutory guidance states:

"A person is disqualified from being a governor of a particular school if they have failed to attend the meetings of the governing body of that school for a continuous period of six months, beginning with the date of

the first meeting they failed to attend, without the consent of the governing body”.

This enables governors who are continually absent without good reason, to be easily removed from the governing body - but only if it has been correctly recorded. This may not seem relevant to you now - but recording absences correctly will be of great benefit should future difficulties arise - so please, if you are not already doing so, consider & record apologies for absences.

3) Diocesan Training

The remaining training sessions for governors in 2022-23 are:

- **Refresher** - for all experienced governors is on Thursday 25 May
- **Induction** - for any governor who has not previously attended an Induction session is on Thursday 8 June

Both sessions are from 6.30pm - 8.00pm and are via Microsoft Teams and are open to all governors of any category, via your school email address. Just complete the online booking form <https://schools.cliftondiocese.com/courses>

4) Additional Funding for mainstream schools

You may be aware that the has DfE published information regarding Additional funding 2023-2024. The DfE guidance <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mainstream-schools-additional-grant-2023-to-2024/mainstream-schools-additional-grant-2023-to-2024-methodology> gives examples and the methodology for working out the additional funding your school should receive.

5) Updated Guidance on the Recruitment of Staff

The Catholic Education Service (CES) has updated its guidance on the recruitment of staff for governors. As well as a more general update, the document has been reviewed in light of the new requirements in the 2022 version of Keeping Children Safe in Education to undertake online searches of shortlisted candidates. Please visit <http://catholiceducation.org.uk/recruitment-process/item/1000051-model-recruitment-documents-guidance> to see the revised 'Guidance on recruitment of

staff for Governing Boards' document. Compliance with this guidance is a requirement in the model diocesan protocols on staffing and recruitment.

6) - Catholic Educational Trusts (CET)

Congratulations to Christ the King Primary, Amesbury and St Mary's Primary, Chippenham, who both joined The **Dunstan** CET on 1 March - and also to St Nicholas of Tolentine Primary, Bristol, who are due to join the **Cardinal Newman** CET on 1 April. Six of our primary schools in Gloucestershire are intending to form **The Little Way** CET on 1 September.

It's wonderful to see the Bishop's vision for our schools to be part of CETs coming to fruition and so helping to safeguard Catholic education for future generations. All three CETs need Foundation Directors to help them grow and develop. We would encourage governors to consider becoming Foundation Directors and to use the skills & knowledge gained from being on one governing body, to benefit several schools. If you would like to apply, please complete the following:

- **MAT Director Nomination Form**
- **Skills Audit**
- **Eligibility Declaration**
- **DBS Self Declaration Form**

If you have any queries about the role, please contact me.

7) Academy AGMs

The dates of the Academy AGMs with Bishop Declan for 2023 have been set - but they have been moved to 2024! Rather than being in November/December, they have been moved to January, which will allow more time for the end of year accounts to be finalised. The schedule is below - please would all Chairs, Heads & CEOs note the date & time for your academy and advise any governors & staff (such as Business Managers, CFOs) that you may wish to attend with you.

ACADEMIES AGM Thursday 18/01/24	AGM time
St Nicholas of Tolentine Primary, Bristol	10.00am
St Joseph's College, Swindon	10.45am
BREAK	11.30am
Holy Family Primary, Swindon	12.00pm
The Rosary Primary, Stroud	12.45pm
ACADEMIES AGM Friday 19/01/24	
St Augustine's College, Trowbridge	10.00am
Holy Cross Primary, Swindon	10.45am
BREAK	11.30am
St Catherine's, Swindon	12.00pm
St Mary's Primary, Swindon	12.45pm
ACADEMIES AGM Thursday 25/01/2024	
St Patrick's Primary, Bristol	10.00am
St Edmund's Primary, Calne	10.45am
BREAK	11.30am
St Joseph's Primary, Devizes	12.00pm
Holy Rood Primary, Swindon	12.45pm
LUNCH	13.30pm
Dunstan Catholic Educational Trust	14.15pm
ACADEMIES AGM Tuesday 30/01/2024	
St Bede's College, Bristol	10.00am
St Peter's High, Gloucester	10.45am
BREAK	11.30am
St Mary's Primary, Churchdown	12.00pm
Cardinal Newman Catholic Educational Trust	12.45am

8) Friday 17 March - Feast of St Patrick

The Prayer of St. Patrick

Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,
Christ where I lie, Christ where I sit, Christ where I arise,
Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks to me,
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me.
Salvation is of the Lord.
Salvation is of the Christ.
May your salvation, Lord, be ever with us.



Thanks

As always, many thanks for all that you do for the benefit of the children & staff at our schools - it is much appreciated. Please contact me if you have any queries.

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