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School governance update November 2019

Updated 5 November 2019

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1. DfE governance research project

We commissioned National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) to conduct a research project to look in greater depth at governance practice and the challenges faced in the governance sector. This is the first survey we have undertaken looking at governance for a number of years, and a representative sample of 5,000 schools and academies have been selected by NFER to take part.

We expect NFER to contact chairs and headteachers from these schools around 18 November inviting the school to take part. We kindly ask anyone who receives the survey to encourage those involved in governance within their school or trust to participate, including governors, trustees, members, headteachers, CEOs and clerks.

2. Funding factsheet for governors and trustees

On 11 October we announced [provisional funding allocations](#) to local authorities and schools in England under the [National funding formula \(NFF\) for 2020-21](#). This includes:

- provisional local authority funding for schools and high needs in the ‘summary table’
- national school level funding figures, showing what each institution attracts under the NFF, in the ‘Impact of the schools NFF’ spreadsheet

Funding for each local authority will be updated in December with the latest pupil numbers. Each local authority is then, within certain parameters, responsible for designing a local formula to determine schools’ final allocations.

This is why school level figures are notional at this stage. This government is committed to moving to a ‘hard’ national funding formula, whereby schools’ actual budgets would be determined by the NFF in the future.

Read more about the [schools and high needs NFF](#).

We’ve updated the pupil premium guidance and provided new templates to help schools plan how best to use it to support the children who most need it. Read [Pupil premium: effective use and accountability](#) for more information.

3. Financial planning training

A fully-funded short course on integrated curriculum and financial planning (ICFP) is available for all school business professionals and school leaders, including governors. ICFP is a process that helps schools plan the best curriculum for their pupils with the funding they have available.

Whether you have a finance background or not, this course will help you to understand the basics of ICFP. These are one-hour webinars, although half-day workshops are also offered, available across a range of times and locations until March 2020.

To find out whether it could of benefit to you or your school business professional, and to book a place on this course, visit the [ISBL website](#) or email training@isbl.org.uk.

4. Teacher recruitment and retention strategy

The teacher recruitment and retention strategy set out how we will help to create the right climate for headteachers and other school leaders to establish supportive

school cultures. This includes reducing unnecessary workload and increasing opportunities for flexible working.

On 11 October, DfE published the [teacher workload survey 2019](#) which shows a reduction in reported working hours since the 2016 survey, particularly in hours spent working in the evening and at weekends. Whilst this is encouraging, we recognise that teachers' workload is still too high and there is more we can do to support better work-life balance for staff.

We also published the updated [workload reduction toolkit](#), with a section specifically for governors, which now has improved navigation, a [video on recruitment and retention](#), and [flexible working resources](#), including case studies.

5. Career guidance for young people

Governing bodies have a responsibility to provide clear advice and guidance to help schools meet their [statutory requirements on providing career guidance](#). See the [Careers & Enterprise Company's guide for governors](#) for more information.

If you're a link governor for careers, a careers leader or interested in careers leadership you can register for the [introduction to careers leadership online course](#). All secondary schools are also eligible for [face-to-face training for careers leaders](#).

The [National Careers Service](#) telephone helpline is available to students aged 13 plus on 0800 100 900. The [Quality in Careers Standard](#) is the single national quality award for schools' and colleges' careers provision.

6. Get information about schools (GIAS) and governance update

Following the first governance update, we received some enquiries regarding our mailing list. You can only receive the governance update directly, if your email address is stored on GIAS. This data is secure and not publicly available. The department will only send you information deemed relevant to your role in governance. Should you wish to update your email address information, then please contact your school's DfE GIAS 'Sign-in approver', who is able to amend information relating to the school. See [the GIAS help page](#) for more information.

Should you wish to not receive this update directly, please email SchoolGovernance.update@education.gov.uk and we will remove your address from the update's distribution list. We are unable to remove your email address from GIAS, you will need to ask your school's DfE GIAS Sign in approver to do

this.

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