

GOVERNOR HEADLINES

Welcome to issue #25 of Governor Headlines. This edition includes clarification on Section 128 Checks for governors, an invitation to join the Suffolk Learning and Improvement Network (SLIN) and guidance on how to co-opt governors for hearing panels. There's also information on how Research Schools can help improve school outcomes, as well an invitation to attend an information event on a new free communication and interaction school in Ipswich and details on the Development for Chairs programme.

As always, if you have any thoughts or suggestions regarding Governor Headlines please contact governorheadlines@suffolk.gov.uk.

What's New This Month – June 2019

Section 128 Checks for Governors

Please accept our apologies for any confusion caused by our article on Section 128 Checks for governors in the May edition of Governor Headlines.

In this article we stated that Section 128 Checks were recommended for governors in maintained schools but were not required by legislation or statutory guidance.

We have since been informed that an amendment has been made to the [School Governance \(Constitutions and Federations\) \(England\) \(Amendment\) Regulations](#) 2014, which came into effect from September 2015, listing a Section 128 Check as a reason why an individual may be disqualified from becoming a governor in a maintained school.

As you cannot be sure that an individual isn't disqualified without carrying out a Section 128 Check, it therefore follows that the Checks are a requirement in maintained schools, as well as in academies.

Suffolk Learning and Improvement Network (SLIN) Invitation

Invitation for new schools to join the Suffolk Learning and Improvement Network (SLIN) in 2019-20

In 2019-20 the SLIN programme of peer reviews and joint practice development is being expanded, with scope for further primary and secondary schools to participate. This briefing information provides the details of the SLIN 2019-20 'offer'. Schools interested in joining the programme are asked to **[complete and return the proforma](#)** to linden.pitcher@suffolk.gov.uk by 5pm on 14th June 2019.

[Find out more](#)

Contact: linden.pitcher@suffolk.gov.uk

The National Governance Association Development for Chairs Programme

The National Governance Association (NGA) is a not-for-profit organisation with a strong track record of delivering governance leadership programmes in cooperation with partners across England.

The Development for Chairs programme is funded by the Department for Education (DfE) and provides Chairs, Vice-Chairs, committee Chairs and future Chairs opportunities for developing leadership skills and confident governance.

If you are interested in the programme further information can be found **[here](#)**.

Schools' Choice Governor Training

From September 2019 the administration of Schools' Choice Governor Training will be moved to GovernorHub. Booking training and keeping training records will be much more straightforward for you in this system.

For those of you already using GovernorHub you will just have to click on the training icon to see more details. For those of you not currently using GovernorHub please look out for a welcome email inviting you to set up a free password.

Further instructions will be available soon, meanwhile if you have any queries about this please contact us on governor.training@schoolschoice.org or 01473 263993.

Of course, if you prefer, we continue to be more than happy to take bookings over the phone or by email.

Governors for Hearings

Occasionally you may be required to convene a hearing panel for reasons of staff/pupil disciplinary panels, appeal hearings or parental complaints. Some schools have panel members set in advance whilst other will convene available governors. There is no “right” answer to this situation. But, what do you do if you don’t have enough governors available for either the panel or the appeal?

There is opportunity to form a reciprocal hearing and appeals panel with another local school in readiness for this becoming a requirement. This panel should be treated like a committee and must have a terms of reference and delegated power to the panel in order to be able to make decisions. Any stipulations that you have for the panel must be described in this e.g. – must have one governor from the host school; no parent governors for a disciplinary panel. The decisions about how the panel works is your discretion but you will need to give thought to how you will support the reciprocal school should they have a need.

Summer Holiday Activities Programme

You will be aware of the fantastic news that Suffolk County Council’s external funding team, with the support of schools and VCSE partners, has successfully secured an additional pot of funding of almost £1million to provide 2,449 children in receipt of free school meals with Summer Holidays Activities. We will be sending more details and your school’s allocation of places via email this week, but it will provide the allocated children with four hours of activities, four days a week for four weeks of the holidays.

We would ask schools to please complete the referral form and return as indicated **no later than 16 June 2019** to ensure that your most vulnerable children have the opportunity to be well fed, participate in enriching physical activities and learn about nutrition over the summer break and return to school engaged and ready to learn.

NQT Statutory Induction

Information for all governors employing newly qualified teachers (NQTs) from September 2019.

If you are employing a newly qualified teacher for September they must be registered with an Appropriate Body. The Teacher Regulation Agency (TRA) requires NQTs to be recorded on their database by 16th October 2019. To meet this deadline NQTs must be registered with Suffolk Appropriate body by Friday 27th September 2019.

Governors have responsibility for ensuring compliance with the [statutory guidance](#) including registration of NQTs by the headteacher/principal, (statutory guidance paragraph 2.24).

It also includes ensuring the school/setting has the capacity to support the NQT(s) and the NQT(s) are employed in a suitable role, (statutory guidance paragraphs 2.18, 5.11 and 2.17).

The links will provide information about induction tutor training (a statutory entitlement of NQTs and responsibility of the headteacher/principal), and NQT Welcome Sessions, an important basis for statutory induction. [Induction Tutor Training and NQT Welcome Sessions](#)

If you would like further information please contact Celia Moore Celia.moore@suffolk.gov.uk, NQT and Appropriate Body Standards and Excellence Officer at or email EL.NQTenquiries@suffolk.gov.uk.

How Research Schools Can Help Your School Improve Outcomes

EEF Research Schools Network



You may already be aware that Notre Dame High School (Norwich) was designated a Research School by the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) in 2017. Now in its second year, Norwich Research School at NDHS would like to take this opportunity to provide Governors with an overview of what Research Schools offer.

Who are the EEF?

The EEF are a grant-making organisation. They commissioned and curate the EEF/Sutton Trust T&L Toolkit (as used by the majority of senior leaders in UK schools), and commission a range of practical resources for schools seeking to be

evidence-informed. They also fund innovation projects, which schools can apply to be part of. See <https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/>.

- The EEF recently published a useful guide aimed specifically at Governors: <https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/tools/governors-guidance/>

What is the Research Schools Network?

A network of 22 schools which act as regional delivery arms for the work of the EEF. Research Schools are funded to work with other schools to support them to make better use of evidence to inform teaching and school leadership. They do this through three strands of work:

- **Communication:** newsletters signposting research evidence and opportunities for schools; social media presence, one-off events including conferences and talks;
- **Training:** designing and delivering evidence-based professional development (PD) programmes for leaders and teachers (all quality assured by the EEF);
- **Innovation:** supporting other schools in evaluating innovative practice, and seeking to scale up its implementation.

See <https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/scaling-up-evidence/research-schools/>.

What are the Research Schools in our region offering?

In addition to Notre Dame, there are three other Research Schools operating in our region. Check their websites:

- Norwich Research School: <https://norwich.researchschool.org.uk/>
- East Cambridgeshire and Fenlands Research School: <https://eastcambsandfens.researchschool.org.uk/>
- Ipswich Research School: <https://ipswich.researchschool.org.uk/>
- Unity Research School in Suffolk: <https://samuelward.researchschool.org.uk/>

You can also sign up to their individual newsletters in order to be kept informed of their offers.

Highlights for 2019-20 include (all bookable via the respective Research School websites):

- **East Anglia ‘Slow-burn leadership’ conference for system and school leaders:** 20th June 2019 in Norwich.
- **Leading Learning training programme:** offered by all 4 Eastern Research Schools, this training aimed at senior leaders supports schools to improve the effectiveness of their teacher PD;
- **Effective use of the Pupil Premium:** offered by multiple Eastern Research Schools, this training aimed at senior leaders responsible for the Pupil

Premium leads schools to develop, implement and sustain an evidence-based, high impact Pupil Premium strategy;

- **KS2/3 Maths training programme:** offered by Norwich and Unity Research Schools, this training is aimed at MATs with secondary and primary schools seeking to align their teaching and curricula to benefit pupils;
- **KS3 Disciplinary Literacy:** offered by Unity Research School, this training is aimed at middle and senior leaders, and is based around the evidence on Disciplinary (subject-specific) literacy teaching.
- **Evidence dives:** one-off events to support schools to interpret EEF guidance reports.

If you would like further information on what Research Schools offer in terms of support for schools please contact Roger Higgins at rhiggins@ndhs.org.uk .

Guide to Becoming an Evidence-Based Governor and Trustee

The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) have published a guide to becoming an evidence-informed school governor and trustee:

“School governors and trustees play a crucial role in improving school performance by providing support and challenge to the Headteacher and their leadership team. It is essential, therefore, that you can access and use the best available evidence-based resources.”

To read the full guide please click [here](#) .

New Free Communication and Interaction School in Ipswich Information Event

Suffolk County Council is holding an information event for prospective providers and other stakeholders with an interest in the new **Communication and Interaction (C & I) Free School** in Ipswich. This provision is being designed for pupils who are unable to learn effectively in a mainstream environment due to communication and interaction needs.

The County Council is working closely with the DfE Free Schools Group to attract a high-quality provider with the capacity and experience to work with us to establish and run the school once it is open. The assessment process, undertaken jointly by the LA and the DfE, will take place in the autumn term 2019 with a decision expected to be made by the Secretary of State in the spring term 2020. This event is intended

to provide information to engage providers and stakeholders at an early stage of the project.

Date: Thursday 4 July 2019

Venue: Ip City Centre (<https://www.ipcitycentre.co.uk/location/>)

Programme

The event will be in two parts as follows:

Part 1

9.45 am Providers arrive

10.00 am Welcome and introductions

10.15 am Background to and information about the Free School

Part 2

10.45 am Parents, carers and other stakeholders arrive

Coffee

11.00 am Suffolk Parent Carer Network: What do stakeholders want from the new school?

11.30 am Table discussions between Trusts and stakeholders

We are inviting prospective providers to bring display materials and/or information about their Trusts if they wish to do so.

12.15 pm Final remarks and close.

Please note that this event has been designed to provide information to all parties; *it is not part of the formal assessment process for the selection of sponsor.*

To register for or find out more about this event, please contact katie.deacon@suffolk.gov.uk by **Friday 28 June 2019**.

Ofsted Inspection Framework

Following a consultation on the draft education inspection framework, Ofsted have now published their new framework and handbooks, along with a consultation outcome report.

To view the new framework please click [here](#).

Take Part in the Biggest Annual Survey of School Governance



Take part today!

Add your views and experiences to the biggest annual survey of school governance volunteers.

The NGA undertake an annual governance survey. They are keen to hear about your experience of school governance, your views on topical education policy and your governing board practice to enable them and other organisations to continue to improve how they represent and support you.

[Take part today!](#)

The survey is open to all governors, trustees and local academy committee members. Whatever your role on the governing board, however long you've been involved in governance, The NGA value the views and experience of all school governance volunteers in England. Please do encourage others on your board(s) to take part, and share the survey with your network.

Once you have started the survey, you can save and return to your answers whenever you like before submitting them. The survey closes on 13 June. If you have already started the survey, please continue and submit your answers before the deadline.

To read the results of the 2017 survey please click [here](#):

The Suffolk Rainbow Conference



Monday 8th July 2019

The Rainbow Conference returns for the fourth time in 2019. The Suffolk County Council Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender (LGB&T) Network has once again joined forces with Children and Young People's Services to deliver another fantastic **free** conference. Designed especially for anyone that works with children or young people in an educational capacity, including teachers, Headteachers, governors and support workers, the conference will consider all kinds of good practice when dealing with the question of inclusion.

[To secure your place at the conference or to find out more please click here.](#)
