

GOVERNOR

HEADLINES

Welcome to issue #12 of Governor Headlines, which also marks the first anniversary of the newsletter.

This month's edition sees the launch of our new Governor to Governor Support website, which has been developed to give governors the opportunity to share good practice without the need for the Local Authority to facilitate this.

The newsletter also provides information on safer recruitment requirements and statutory careers guidance for schools, as well as providing a summary of the feedback we received from our recent communications survey.

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

What's New This Month – April 2018

Governor to Governor Support Website



The Governor to Governor support website has officially launched today, Thursday 5 April 2018. It can be found at <http://www.stssp.co.uk/governors/home>.

The website has been developed to give you, as governors, the opportunity to share best practice with one another without the need for the Local Authority to facilitate this.

It currently contains a number of case studies highlighting good practice which will grow as time goes by. Each case study listed includes details of a governor at the school who can be contacted directly to discuss its contents further. A governor forum is also available for you to sign up to.

The website provides links to useful resources and policies, including all back-issues of Governor Headlines, and offers the opportunity to share your own. All governor vacancies for maintained schools are also displayed, based on the information that we have. These will be updated every 2 weeks but if you find that the vacancy information shared for your school is incorrect please update us at governance@suffolk.gov.uk. Similarly, if you are an academy and would like to advertise your vacancies on the website please contact us at the same address.

In addition to the website we have also launched a Twitter page in order help keep you informed of all the latest updates and share useful governance tips. If you would like to follow us we can be found at [@GovernSuffolk](https://twitter.com/GovernSuffolk).

If you have any feedback related to the Governor to Governor Support website please share this with us at governance@suffolk.gov.uk. We would love to hear your thoughts.

Raising the Bar Achievements 2015-17

Please click [here](#) to see the Raising the Bar Achievements for 2015-17.

Raising the Bar Awards 2018

Nominations and Co-Presenter Competition now Open!



The Raising the Bar Awards are an opportunity for you to say well done to a child or young person and thank teachers, staff, governors, volunteers and business partners who go the extra mile and deserve recognition.

There are also categories for education providers and projects that have shown collaboration. If there is something that you are proud of, make sure you enter the awards. **The deadline for nominations is Tuesday 1 May.**

To find out more please [click here](#)

Governor Headlines/The Knowledge – Survey Results

Thank you to those who took part in the communication survey recently. It really is important for us to know how to support you and communicate with you.

We had 132 respondents in total who answered questions about Governor Headlines, The Knowledge and governor briefing sessions.

A brief synopsis is below:

- The good news is that 78% of those who responded say that they receive and read Governor Headlines, 99% of respondents are reading all or some of the Knowledge and 67% have attended a termly briefing.
- There is a misconception that the termly governor briefings are only for Chairs of Governors. This is not the case, they are open to all but if your school doesn't subscribe to Schools' Choice there is a charge for attendance.
- Suggestions for updating communication methods for all three areas include webinars, podcasts and website links rather than emails.

Some suggestions were given by governors as to how we could improve communications and we are currently looking into these. The full breakdown of the survey can be found [here](#).

We are currently reviewing our communications strategy ready for September and will share further details in due course.

Statutory Requirements – Safer Recruitment

As a reminder on safer recruitment, current regulations state that governing bodies of maintained schools must ensure that at least 1 person on any appointments panel has undertaken safer recruitment training. This does not necessarily have to be a governor, however it is strongly recommended that a governor with safer recruitment training is on the panel for the recruitment of a new Headteacher.

It is also useful to have a governor on hand to step in if the trained person on the recruitment panel is unable to take part.

These regulations do not apply to academies. However non-statutory guidance published by the Department of Education (DfE) suggests it is good practice for appointment panel members of academies to be appropriately trained.

If you would like to read more about the duties of schools to safeguard and promote the welfare of children further information can be found in [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#), the safeguarding guidance published by the DfE. The above safer recruitment requirements can be found on page 18.

Statutory Careers Guidance for Schools

The government have developed a new/updated Careers Strategy, as well as publishing a [guidance document](#) for schools. The guidance reiterates the requirement that schools must provide independent careers guidance for their students (Year 8 -13) as well as a new requirement for all schools to ensure a range of education training providers have access to students (Year 8 -13), so that they are aware of the full range of pathways including Apprenticeships and technical qualifications. Schools also must publish a policy statement setting out their arrangements for provider access.

The guidance also strongly recommends all schools use the [Gatsby benchmarks](#) as a way of planning and auditing their provision, ensure a Senior Careers Leader is in place to oversee provision, offer at least one employer encounter per year (some of which should be STEM related) for students and publish details of their careers programme on their website.

What Governors Need to Know:

- The governing body should provide clear advice and guidance to the Headteacher, on which they can then base a strategy for careers education and guidance which meets the school's legal requirements, is

developed in line with the Gatsby benchmarks and informed by the requirements of the statutory guidance document. Every school should have a member of the governing body who takes a strategic interest in careers education and guidance and encourages employer engagement.

- The governing body must make sure that arrangements are in place to allow a range of education and training providers to access all pupils in years 8-13 to inform them about approved technical education qualifications and apprenticeships, and that a policy statement setting out these arrangements is published. This should be part of a broader approach to ensuring that young people are aware of the full range of academic and technical routes available to them at each transition point.

Ipswich Opportunity Area

In January 2018 the Department of Education (DfE) announced funding for 12 opportunity areas across the UK, Ipswich being one of these areas. A key aim of opportunity areas is to build young people's knowledge and skills and provide them with the best advice and opportunities. The DfE will target its programmes to ensure children get the best start in the early years, to build teaching and leadership capacity in schools, to increase access to university, to strengthen technical pathways for young people, and work with employers to improve young people's access to the right advice and experiences. The DfE will work with each opportunity area to respond to local priorities and needs - because each area will have its own challenges.

If you would like to learn more about the Ipswich Opportunity Area please see the full [Delivery Plan](#). The first edition of the Ipswich Opportunity Area Newsletter can also be found [here](#).
