

GOVERNOR HEADLINES

This will be the fourth edition of Governor Headlines which brings the academic year of 2016-17 to a close.

It has been very encouraging to receive such positive support for Governor Headlines and engagement from governors has been strong.

We look forward to working with you again in September by sharing the new initiatives that we are developing over the summer.

Finally, a huge thank you to all governing bodies who tirelessly give up their time and commitment to support their schools and the pupils and students across Suffolk.

What's new this month - July 2017

Raising the Bar Awards



Councillor Colin Noble presents the Excellence in Governance Award to Toby Slater-Robins

We would like to congratulate Toby Slater-Robins on his Raising the Bar Award for Excellence in Governance.

The award recognises governors, trustees, non-executives and Committee members who have made outstanding contributions to the vision and success of early years establishments, schools and colleges.

"In his role as Chair and co-opted governor at Henley Primary School Toby has offered invaluable support to every member of the school community, helped lead the school to an 'Outstanding' Ofsted status by working collaboratively with staff and fellow governors, supported individuals through various challenges and made a vast musical contribution to the cultural life of the school".

We would also like to take the opportunity to recognise the hard-work and dedication of both Richard Harding (All Saints CEVA Primary School) and Richard Carter (West Suffolk College) who were also short-listed for the award.

Share Your Story

Thank you to everyone who has shown an interest in our new Share Your Story feature which gives governors the opportunity to share their experiences and draw recognition to the achievements and positive changes their governing body has contributed to their school.

In light of his Raising the Bar success this first instalment focuses on Toby Slater Robins and his governance role at Henley Primary School.

If you would like to be involved please send a photograph of either yourself or your full governing body to governorheadlines@suffolk.gov.uk, along with some brief answers to the following questions:

- How long have you been a governor and what school are you a governor at?
- What got you into school governance?
- What have you gained from the role, both professionally and personally?
- What has been your biggest challenge and achievement as a governor?
- What surprises have you encountered as a governor?
- How would you describe the role of school governor to someone else?

Toby Slater Robins - Henley Primary School

How long have you been a governor?

11 years.

What got you into school governance?

I was playing piano and percussion in a band at the time, and we ran a series of experimental pop-up music workshops in some schools. I was asked by the Headteacher who begged me to become a governor, and wouldn't take 'no' for an answer.

What have you gained from the role, both professionally and personally?

The opportunity to work alongside some incredibly committed and talented individuals who

understand the true nature and value of their work. As society's most precious asset, it is always a privilege to work with (and for) children.

What surprises have you encountered as a governor?

That some of the best and most profound things that happen in schools are unmeasurable.

How would you describe the role to someone else?

Governors are there to enable, encourage and insist on an amazing education and inspiring opportunities for every child and young person.

How To Help You

Plan Governor Training

As the school year draws to a close we would encourage you to identify any training needs and book yourself onto the corresponding courses found in the below links.

School's Choice Governor Training 2017/2018

The Schools' Choice governor training programme for 2017/18 has been finalised and you can download a copy of the training handbook [here](#).

All of the courses have been published and are open for bookings via the [Schools' Choice CPD website](#).

If you have any queries relating to governor training please email Schools' Choice at governor.training@schoolschoice.org.

Important Alert

Check Your Website - Is It Compliant?

Every local-authority-maintained school must publish specific information on its website to comply with [The School Information \(England\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2016](#).

The maintenance of a school's website may seem to be an *operational* measure – and therefore be beyond the scope of a governing body whose focus should be on the *strategic* aspects of a school's journey and life.

However, the Regulations are clear that the website is effectively published on behalf of the governing body so it is important that the governing body – or at least the Chair and a governor nominated to take responsibility for keeping an eye on this aspect of the governing body's responsibilities – should engage with this process, possibly reporting back to full governing body meetings where appropriate.

Please use the link below to check what you need to publish.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/what-maintained-schools-must-publish-online>

If you're an [academy](#) or [free school](#), please read guidance on [what academies, free schools and colleges should publish online](#).

Pupil Premium - Monitoring and Evaluation

As part of your regular monitoring and evaluation schedule all governors should ensure that they know *“how effectively leaders use additional funding, including the pupil premium, and measure its impact on outcomes for pupils, and how effectively governors hold them to account for this”* – Effectiveness of Leadership and Management – Ofsted School Inspection Handbook Page 38

It would be worthwhile for governors to undertake a value for money exercise to check on the effectiveness of their Pupil Premium funding.

Govern Suffolk - Campaign Update



As you will have seen in last months' Special Edition of Governor Headlines, the 19 June saw the launch of our Govern Suffolk Schools campaign with the aim to reduce the 450 current governor vacancies that exist in Suffolk schools.

The response to the campaign so far has been a positive one and we have several new applicants in the process of being placed, with many more having expressed interest.

However we are still keen to generate even further interest.

Having already visited the Suffolk Show, Senior Governance Advisor Joanna Howell and Governor Development Advisor Lyndsay Cook have been manning recruitment stands at various venues across the county and are travelling to several more during the coming weeks, including Ipswich and West Suffolk Hospitals.

We would really appreciate your help in spreading the word and sharing the campaign with friends and colleagues who you feel have the right attributes to become a governor.

Help someone else put their skills into a Suffolk school by sharing the information below or by directing them to: www.suffolk.gov.uk/governorsuffolk.

Govern Suffolk Schools

Become a School Governor

Could you put your skills into a Suffolk school by becoming a school governor?

If you're looking for a way to give back to your community and have a positive impact on the education of children and young people in Suffolk, we want to hear from you.

Suffolk County Council is launching its **Govern Suffolk Schools** campaign to help fill the 450 vacancies that currently exist across the county.

School governors play such an important role within the education system, providing strategic leadership and accountability, ensuring the school is as good as it can be.

A governor can make a really important contribution to a child's life, whilst developing personal and professional skills at the same time. Being passionate about improving outcomes and opportunities for children and young people is essential.

You can really make a difference, like Emma did.



Emma Oddie is a School Governor from Sudbury and said:

“I became a governor because I wanted to give something back to my community. I am able to use my strategic thinking and previous experience working in education and business to make a difference to my local school which is really rewarding.”

Watch Emma’s story and see how other people across Suffolk are putting their skills into schools [here](#).

If you, or someone you know, would like to learn more about the role and how to apply, please visit www.suffolk.gov.uk/governorsuffolk .

Alternatively, you can Call: 01473 263972 or Email: governance@suffolk.gov.uk.
