

GOVERNOR

HEADLINES

Welcome to issue #33 of Governor Headlines for March 2020.

This edition includes advice on governor safeguarding duties, including the Prevent duty, homophobia and racism policies and other statutory policies that schools must have in place. There is also information on relationships, sex education and health education, as well as an introduction to Whole School SEND and what they can offer to schools.

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

The Knowledge

Please find the latest edition of **The Knowledge** for March 2020 [here](#).

Please note that The Knowledge is a half-termly document and therefore not included in every monthly issue of Governor Headlines.



Governor Safeguarding Duties

IMPORTANCE: STATUTORY
WHO IT'S FOR: ALL SCHOOLS

As governors, you have a responsibility to ensure the safeguarding and welfare of the children attending your school.

You will all be aware of the [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) (KCSiE) statutory guidance published by the Department for Education (DfE), which outlines the duties of governing bodies in the management of safeguarding.

These duties include:

- Ensuring compliance with duties under legislation and with regards to the KCSiE guidance, making sure that policies, procedures and training in your schools are effective and comply with the law at all times.
- Ensuring that a senior staff member is appointed as the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and takes responsibility for your school's safeguarding arrangements.
- Making sure that there are policies and procedures in place in order for appropriate action to be taken to safeguard and promote children's welfare. This should include an effective child protection policy, a staff behaviour policy and appropriate safeguarding responses to children who go missing from education.

In addition to this you will need to make sure that all staff receive regular safeguarding and child protection training and that pupils receive education on safeguarding, including how to stay safe online. Safer recruitment procedure is also essential, and all members of staff and the governing body should have DBS and Section 128 checks.

To ensure your governing body's effective management of safeguarding you should appoint a designated safeguarding governor. The safeguarding governor then has responsibilities for ensuring policies and procedures remain current, that the wider governing body is kept informed of relevant information and that both staff members and governors receive safeguarding training. The safeguarding governor should also meet regularly with the DSL to monitor the single central record and ensure appropriate safeguarding procedures are in place.

If you have new governors on your governing body who haven't undertaken safeguarding training, or feel you would benefit from a refresher, Schools' Choice run a "Safeguarding for Governors" course as part of their fundamental governance training. They also run a "Named Governor for Safeguarding" course for designated safeguarding governors. Full details of these courses can be found in the Schools' Choice [online training brochure](#).

Prevent Duty

IMPORTANCE: STATUTORY
WHO IT'S FOR: ALL SCHOOLS

All schools, registered early years childcare providers and registered later years childcare providers are subject to a duty under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”. This duty is referred to as the Prevent duty.

Information on what the Prevent duty means for schools and childcare providers and what you should be doing to demonstrate compliance with the duty, can be found in the following documents:

[The Prevent Duty](#) – Departmental advice for schools and childcare providers
[Prevent Duty Guidance](#) – statutory guidance

The protection of pupils from the risk of radicalisation should form part of your wider safeguarding duties and it's therefore essential that you ensure your safeguarding procedures are robust.

It is a statutory requirement for the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) to have Prevent awareness training but this would also be useful for governors, especially the designated safeguarding governor. The Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP) is a free workshop developed by the Home Office which is available to all frontline staff working with children and young people, as well as governors. Details on upcoming WRAP training can be found [here](#).

Policies for Racism and Homophobia

IMPORTANCE: STATUTORY
WHO IT'S FOR: MAINTAINED SCHOOLS

Racism and Homophobia

In May 2019, the NSPCC drew attention to a 3 year high in racist hate crimes against children¹. They answered over two and half thousand calls from school-age children about racist bullying. A Stonewall survey found that 96% of gay young people hear homophobic language in schools². There is clearly still work to be done

¹ The NSPCC submitted a Freedom of Information request to every police force in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Of these, 38 of the 43 forces in England and Wales, plus Police Scotland and the Police Service of Northern Ireland, responded within the allocated time.

² Hannah Kibirige and Luke Tryl, *Tackling Homophobic Language*, Stonewall, 2012

in schools not only to ensure the protection of individuals from persecution, but also to promote wider education against hate that will help to reduce such incidence.

What the law says

Section 89 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 states that maintained schools must have measures to encourage good behaviour and prevent all forms of bullying amongst pupils. Keeping Children Safe in Education, September 2019, Section 2.7 makes clear the school's duty to protect children and young people from all forms of peer-on-peer abuse. The public sector Equality Duty requires that all schools in England, Scotland and Wales, including academies and free schools, eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

School approaches

Some schools choose to address racism and homophobia as part of their anti-bullying policy, while others include it in their behaviour policy. Wherever your school includes this information, it should be shared with staff, pupils and parents. If your policy is currently under review there is good advice about how to build an inclusive policy at the Diana Award [here](#).

Governor responsibilities

Responsibility for determining behaviour policy under Section 89 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 sits with the Headteacher, this is usually overseen by the governing body. The safeguarding responsibilities and Equality Duty belong to the Headteacher and governors together. In terms of routine monitoring, it is expected that Headteachers' reports to governors include the number of bullying incidents, racist incidents and homophobic incidents that have occurred since the last report, with any actions that have been taken as a result. It is good practice for the safeguarding governor to check that the school's bullying log and racist incident log is being kept and reviewed by SLT, as part of their safeguarding monitoring. These logs should be reviewed by senior staff to identify any potential connections or patterns in the behaviour of perpetrators and victims.

Beyond the monitoring of recording and reporting, governors should ask questions about when and how issues of prejudice are challenged in the day-to-day life of the school, and how equality is promoted. This could be part of monitoring visits in any area of the curriculum or safeguarding and should include consideration of staff training and expertise. The charity Stonewall offer useful advice in their booklet 'Tackling Homophobic Language' [here](#).

It is especially pertinent as staff prepare to deliver the new RSE curriculum from September 2020.

What Policies Should Governors Have in Place

IMPORTANCE: STATUTORY
WHO IT'S FOR: ALL SCHOOLS

As you'll be aware, there are a number of statutory policies that schools are required to have in place. The Department for Education (DfE) have recently updated their guidance on [Statutory Policies for Schools and Academy Trusts](#). Within this document is a list of all statutory policies, who they apply to (for example Local Authority Maintained schools or academies), the review period and the appropriate level of approval, such as the governing body, the Headteacher or the academy trust.

The Local Authority have recently produced a [school policies tracker](#) for governors which you are welcome to adopt and use. However please note that, whilst the document was correct as of January 2020, it will need to be updated termly by checking the Statutory Policies for Schools and Academy Trusts document for changes in statutory requirements.

OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION FROM THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

Suffolk County Council Funded School Travel for 2020/2021

IMPORTANCE: STATUTORY
WHO IT'S FOR: ALL SCHOOLS

From 4 March 2020 parents will be able to opt in for Suffolk County Council (SCC) funded School Travel for the 2020/2021 school year if their child is eligible. This is only the second year of the new school travel policy, which came into effect in September 2019, so SCC needs schools to help us make sure parents are aware of the policy and what this means for their child or children. We also need schools to help us ensure parents opt in for SCC funded travel by the 31 May 2020.

[Full details can be found here.](#)

Relationships, Sex Education and Health Education 2020

IMPORTANCE: STATUTORY

WHO IT'S FOR: GOVERNORS OF ALL SCHOOLS (IN ORDER TO HIGHLIGHT THE EVENTS TO SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAMS, AND PSHE/RSE LEADS)

In preparation for the statutory relationships, sex and health education guidance coming into effect this September, the Schools Engagement Coordinator is hosting update events to provide schools with the information they need to get ready for the statutory guidance and network with other PSHE Leads. There will be key speakers at these events.

As part of the support package being offered, Public Health are hosting **free training** for Suffolk schools to prepare for the new guidance during the Spring and Summer terms.

The agendas have been informed by the summer PSHE survey, autumn term event feedback and what the statutory guidance sets out as requirements for schools to fulfil. However, there are some fine differences between agendas due to some speakers either having to split their attendance between the two terms, or unfortunately not being available to cover all areas. The Spring events have a mental health focus, as well as looking at sexualised behaviour (both developmental and harmful) and online safety (2 of the primary areas only), whilst the Summer events are more widely focused on relationships and health. Due to the different focus between the termly events it is advisable to book on both to ensure the best possible coverage of updates from key speakers.

It is strongly recommended that you book on the event in the area your school is in, in order to make the most of local networking (primaries only). Secondaries have one centralised event due to the lower numbers, to ensure as many schools are represented at one event.

Please sign up using a school email address so that Jane Stannard knows which schools are attending. If you are an all-through school, then you can book a place on both the primary and secondary events, however, you may find that much of the day is repeated (although age appropriate adaptations made) with only a few agenda changes, so it may be better to send another representative from your setting who is also linked to PSHE if you do book both.

Please do not hesitate to contact Jane Stannard with any booking queries and do consider other areas (primaries only) if you cannot book a place at your chosen venue. You are more than welcome to attend an out of locality event if this suits your needs better. Waiting lists will not be created due to several speakers attending these events, and the obvious difficulties in arranging for them to return.

The links to Eventbrite are as follows:

SPRING EVENTS:

Primaries North has already taken place on 4th March 2020

[Primaries West](#)

[Primaries South](#)

[All secondaries](#)

SUMMER EVENTS:

[Primaries West](#)

[Primaries South](#)

[Primaries North](#)

[All secondaries](#)

Many thanks for your continued support in making these events, and RSHE a success.

Jane Stannard can be contacted on 01473 263296 or at

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TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Whole School SEND

IMPORTANCE: USEFUL TO KNOW

WHO IT'S FOR: ALL SCHOOLS

Who are Whole School SEND and how can they help?

The Whole School SEND Consortium brings together schools, organisations and individuals who are committed to ensuring that every child and young person with SEND can achieve their potential at school. The Whole School SEND Consortium is delivering the Department for Education Strategic Support to the Workforce in Mainstream and Special Schools Contract.

The aims of Whole School SEND are to:

- Drive education institutions to prioritise SEND within their CPD and school improvement plans including facilitating greater links between mainstream and special schools.
- Equip schools to identify and meet their training needs in relation to SEND.
- Build the skills of teachers working in mainstream and special schools and of SENCOs and teachers of classes of children and young people with sensory impairments by promoting best practice.
- Identify and respond to any gaps in the training and resources available to schools.

What does this mean for Governors?

Whole School SEND very much see engaging with Governors as part of how they achieve these aims. In the region they have organised training for school leaders alongside governors drawing on their consortium members including the Driver Youth Trust.

A suite of frameworks are available to download for free including the SEND [Governance Review Guide](#). At whatever stage of development a school is at, the review guides provide a tool to facilitate identifying priorities and support in structuring conversations.

Please get in contact with Cormac O'Neill (Regional Leader) if you would like to find out more about how we can support you. Cormac can be contacted at RSL.ENELON@wholeschoolsend.com.

Schools' Choice Training Courses in March 2020

IMPORTANCE: USEFUL TO KNOW WHO IT'S FOR: ALL SCHOOLS

Are you a new governor or do you need to brush up on the basics? Schools' Choice are running a Welcome to Governance course on 18th March 2019 at 9.30 – 4.30 at Kesgrave War Memorial Community Centre

Do you want to know more about governors' responsibilities with regard to children in care? Come along to the training session at One on 12th March at 6pm.

Please find more information and booking details in the [Schools' Choice Governor Training brochure](#).



Have a comment to make?

Contact: qualitymattersineducationandlearning@suffolk.gov.uk
to comment, favourably or otherwise, on any aspect of Suffolk County Council's school improvement strategy.