

Briefing for CofE School and Academy Governors and Directors SPRING 2017



Welcome back to the spring term. We hope everyone had restful Christmas and New Year. *This is to keep you up to date, share news, useful information and upcoming events with you.*

Improving Governance

The link to this document was sent with last week's Clerk's alert but it is worth highlighting within it the key findings. Governors need to be aware of what is relevant and what should be done to make improvements, especially where Governance was recognised as weak in a recent Ofsted inspection.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/improving-governance>

Looking at the actions taken by other schools can be the key to unlocking the potential of your Governing Body. If you are having trouble recruiting or retaining Governors, especially Foundation Governors, please contact us as soon as you are able. Whilst we don't have a pool of good governors we do have some tried and tested recruitment paths and we are happy to help as much as we can. One of the keys to improving Governance is training and ensuring Governors continue to attend training and develop skills to be effective strategic leaders.

The Diocese and the LA offer comprehensive courses in a number of areas. Newly appointed Foundation Governors and Directors are expected to attend a Diocesan Induction course within 12 months of their appointment. Courses are held across the year and around the Diocese.

Training

We have spent time reviewing and evaluating our training programme and are delighted, with the help of external trainers, to be able to offer more courses. Our programme is now set until July 2018 so plenty of opportunity to book now whilst places are available.

Where it says Governor training these courses are suitable for Directors and Trustees. Our courses are open to all categories of Governor/Director and Trustee so anyone can come along.

Governor Training & Events Spring Term 2017

Governor Strategic Planning and visits	Thursday 26th January	Exeter	10:00 – 15:00
Governor Induction	Saturday 28th January	Exeter	09:30 – 13:30
Introduction to Primary Academy Finance	Thursday 2nd February	Exeter	16:00 – 18:00
Safeguarding for governors	Thursday 9th February	Exeter	10:00 – 15:00
Governor Induction	Tuesday 7th March	N.Devon	16:00 – 18.30
Introduction to Academy Human Resources	Wednesday 8th March	Exeter	16:00 – 18:00

Summer Term 2017

Safeguarding (1 of 2)	Wednesday 10th May	Exeter	16:00 – 18:00
Safeguarding (2 of 2)	Wednesday 17th May	Exeter	16:00 – 18:00

More on Primary Academy Finance	Monday 8th May	Exeter	16:00 – 18:00
Governor Induction	Tuesday 6th June	Torbay	16:00 – 18:30
Governor Strategic Planning and visits	Tuesday 6th June	Exeter	16:00 - 19:00
Governor Induction	Tuesday 13th June	Exeter	10:00 – 15:00
Thinking Finance For Academies	Tuesday 13th June	Exeter	16:00 – 18:00
Governor Induction	Tuesday 20th June	Plymouth	16:00 – 18:30
Admissions Code Introduction	Tuesday 29th June	Exeter	10:00 – 13:00

To request a booking form or for more information, please email Fran Bradley at educationevents@exeter.anglican.org or telephone 01392 294921

Leadership Briefings

Governors are encouraged to attend the Leadership Briefings which we now hold every term across the Diocese. These are free events which will give you the opportunity to come and meet the Diocesan Education Team and to receive updates for church schools in the Diocese within the local and National picture. Please book a place with Fran Bradley as above or just come along.

24th January – St Mathews Primary School, Plymouth

31st January – St Peter's School, Exeter

7th February – St Mary's School, Bideford

All leadership briefings are held between 4pm – 5.30pm

School Admissions for own admission authorities

Who is the admission authority for your school?

Academies – The Academy Trust

Voluntary Aided Schools – The Governing Body

Voluntary Controlled Schools – The Local Authority

Admissions arrangements are determined by the admission authorities as above annually by **28th February**. Once admission authorities have determined their admission arrangements, they must publish a copy of the determined arrangements on their website displaying them for the whole offer year (the school year in which offers for places are made).

Admission authorities must send a copy of their full, determined arrangements to the Diocese and local authority as soon as possible before **15 March** in the determination year.

Governing Body and Director meetings need to be scheduled prior to 28th February to ensure that the arrangements are determined. This is a statutory requirement.

Please can you send copies of your determined arrangements to – schooladmissions@exeter.anglican.org as soon as possible after your meeting? Please don't hesitate to contact us if you require further information.

Appendix A: Current and Proposed Admissions Timetable

Activity	Revised Timetable
<u>Determination Year</u>	
Earliest date to start consultation on proposed arrangements	1 October
Deadline for completion of consultation on arrangements	31 January
Minimum length of consultation	6 weeks
Deadline for admission arrangements to be determined	28 February
Deadline for notification of a qualifying scheme for co-ordination	28 February
Deadline for admission authorities to send determined arrangements to LA	15 March
Deadline for LA to publish on its website details of all new schools to open that year & details of where all other school arrangements can be viewed	15 March
Deadline for objections to the Schools Adjudicator	15 May
Deadline for admission authorities to comply with a decision of the Schools Adjudicator	Within 2 months, or by 28 February (the deadline for determination), where the period before then is less than two months. (effective immediately)
