

THE WILTSHIRE GOVERNOR

Newsletter

November 2019

Wiltshire School Governance Team – helping governors and trustees become more effective

Growing our Service

This term we welcome AJ Cripps as our new **Governor Development Lead** replacing Simon Watkins following his move to Regional Lead for the West. AJ comes with a wealth of experience and enthusiasm, she is an experienced secondary school teacher, has worked in a number of governing bodies in a variety of roles, including chair of governors and as an LLG. She will be attending training sessions and will be keen to get to know you and understand the training and support needs of your schools with regards to governance. AJ can be contacted at: amanda.cripps@wiltshire.gov.uk

Wiltshire Virtual School

A warm welcome to Kathryn Davis, our new Virtual School Head in Wiltshire. The Virtual School is responsible for the educational needs of our looked-after and previously looked-after children.

Wiltshire Governor Conference

Thank you to all the governors who gave up their time to come and be part of the inspiring governor conference at the Corn Exchange in Devizes. It was great to get so many governors together to hear some key messages about Education and to understand more about the context of the local and national educational picture. Knowing the big picture context supports governors in all the 3 core functions of governance, especially with understanding your context and then setting the strategic direction of your school. In the morning the conference highlighted key areas of change e.g. the new Ofsted framework and questioned our understanding of Inclusion. The afternoon sessions allowed for a more personalised approach and upskill in other crucial areas such as assessment and data; and Maths and English monitoring. A big thank you is extended to all our Keynote speakers and to all the leaders of the sessions in the afternoon. If you haven't done so already, please can anyone who attended fill in the feedback form on line. We in the school governance team, supported by colleagues in the school effectiveness team, always want to offer the highest standard of support and training and really relish your feedback and suggestions.

Guidance for governors on using Right Choice

The Right Choice website gives governors of all subscribing schools in Wiltshire access to a bank of up-to-date resources, such as:

- Monthly topical Newsletters
- Termly GB checklists
- Templates, e.g. scheme of delegation, electing new governors

- Useful web links, e.g. Ofsted, the DfE and Governance Handbook
- Wiltshire Governors' Association and NGA
- Inspiring Governance

It is also where you can find information about available **training courses** for governors. You can also book yourself a place on training courses. Subscribing school governors' bookings will automatically go through to confirmation and, as part of the subscription package, will not be charged.

To access Right Choice:

- Log onto the website: <http://rightchoice.wiltshire.gov.uk/>
- Your username is your Governor email address
- click on 'forgotten Password' to be sent a temporary password to complete the login process

Top Tip: By default, most Windows computers access the internet via Internet Explorer however, using another browser such as Safari (Apple), Chrome (Google) or Microsoft Edge might improve the quality of access.



Learning Link Updates

As part of the Governor Services' subscription package, all governors now have access to the NGA Learning Link. This e-learning platform gives accessible and personalised learning opportunities for online training for all governors.

Key governance topics include: strategy; team work; assessment; staffing; financial oversight; effective governance; compliance; collaboration; and much more.

Benefits:

- Over 50 CPD training modules
- Eight new induction modules
- A certificate of achievement with every module
- Secure access – 24 hours, 7 days a week
- Multi-device access – desktops, tablets and smartphones
- Tracked learning – revisit content, take a break or pick up where you left off
- A dedicated support service

Visit <https://nga.vc-enable.co.uk/register> to find the online self-registration form.

Add your details to the self-registration form in the following order:

- Your first name
- Your last name
- Your email
- Your phone number (optional)
- Your governance role title (optional)

- Your school or academy – use the search box and make sure to select the right one using the postcode*

Click the green register button to submit your application for approval.

Approval is not immediate - and you must wait for email confirmation of approval. It can take time to receive this email, particularly if your application is submitted over a weekend or in the evening.

Your confirmation email will be sent to you. Once you receive your email confirmation, which includes your login details, you can login to Learning Link and start to use it whenever you want to.

If you are unsure whether your school has access to Learning Link, or would like any further information, please contact the team at learninglink@nga.org.uk.



Schools Financial Value Standard (SFVS) 2019/20 - changed format

It is a mandatory requirement for LA maintained schools to complete and submit the SFVS to the local Authority by the 31st March each year.

The schools financial value standard (SFVS) helps to provide schools with assurance that they are meeting the basic standards necessary to achieve a good level of financial health and resource management. It can be used to identify possible areas for change to ensure that resources are being used to support high-quality teaching and the best education outcomes for pupils.

The Checklist

The checklist asks twenty-nine questions over seven areas:

- Governance
- School Strategy
- Setting the Annual Budget
- Staffing
- Value for Money
- Protecting Public Money
- SFVS dashboard

These can be accessed in a toolkit on the DFE website below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/schools-financial-value-standard-sfvs>

Annual Consultation on School Budgets 2020-2021

The consultations are available via Right Choice <http://rightchoice.wiltshire.gov.uk/A68371>

All schools are asked to complete the annual consultation on School Budgets for 20/21 financial year and for maintained schools only, the consultation on which services should be de-delegated by 30th November.

Ofsted School Inspection Update

Please [click here](#) to go to the Ofsted School Inspection update for November 2019.

Single Central Record (SCR) template

September 2019 is the most recent version of the Wiltshire Council template SCR.

This SCR and FAQ document, along with a SCR monitoring guide for governors, is available to download from the **Model Policies and Safeguarding Resources** page in the **Safeguarding Effectiveness in Schools** resource area:

<http://rightchoice.wiltshire.gov.uk/P9227>

Careers Hub update

The Swindon and Wiltshire Careers Hub is currently working with 58 institutions across the region, 35 of which are in the Wiltshire area, to support Career Leaders to develop their provision for young people in terms of careers and information advice and guidance. Additionally, the Careers Hub is ensuring that all young people have effective encounters with employers and employees and meaningful experiments of the workplace. All schools and colleges are working towards the [Gatsby Benchmarks](#), a framework of 8 guidelines that define the best careers provision in schools and colleges.

Governing Boards have a key role in ensuring schools not only meet their legal requirements, but also equip pupils with the tools and knowledge to make informed choices about their futures. They can do this by offering strategic support to school leaders and by holding the executive leader to account for the quality of the institution's career guidance, information and education. The Careers and Enterprise Company has updated its

[Guide for Governors](#) to help them support the Careers Leader in their school and ensure the establishment complies with its statutory requirements. The updated guide now also includes challenging questions for the Senior Leaders around each benchmark.

The Careers Development Institute are running [free webinars](#) for Governors with responsibility for Careers in Secondary Schools:

Series 1 - March 11th

Series 2 - January 13th & May 12th

Next Steps:

Within each institution the Careers Hub Enterprise Coordinator meets regularly with the Career Leader and Enterprise Adviser, a local business volunteer, to look at their progress towards achieving the Gatsby Benchmarks and to action plan for further improvements. For further information on your individual institution or to arrange to meet with the Career Leader, Enterprise Adviser and Enterprise Coordinator, please contact:

Shona Taylor: Swindon and Wiltshire Careers Hub Lead

shona.taylor@wiltshire.gov.uk

Important Inspection Data Summary Report (IDSR) reminder from Ofsted

As it is the time of year to be reviewing our current IDSR (released in November), we wanted to draw your attention to the fact that **historic IDSRs will be removed from the DfE's Analyse School Performance (ASP)**.

Any users wishing to keep a copy of their historic IDSRs are advised to download and save their IDSRs before they are removed later in **November**. This does not affect your latest (2019) IDSR. This will coincide with the provisional 2019 **secondary** IDSR release.

Should you have any IDSR data queries, please contact the Schools Pre-Inspection Data & Insight team at: School.Performance.Data@ofsted.gov.uk

Data available in Analyse School Performance

The Department for Education (DfE) has published key stage 1 (KS1) and phonics provisional data for 2019 in Analyse School Performance (ASP). Disadvantaged data will be included at a later date.

Other recent data updates include:

- School characteristics
- KS2 provisional data for 2019
- KS2 question level analysis 2018/19

DfE will release KS2 revised data for 2018/19 in December.

Pre-election guidance

Guidance for headteachers, chief executives and governors during the pre-election period for the General Election on 12 December 2019. Click here:

[Pre-election guidance for schools and multi-academy trusts](#)

Simon, AJ, Sandra, Debra, Julia, Ruth and Gill
The Governor Services Team



[Right Choice for Your School](#)