

GOVERNOR TALK

January 2018

Hello Governors

Happy New Year to you all. I do hope that it proves to be a very happy and successful year for everyone.

We are delighted to announce that South Wilford Endowed CE Primary School joined the Trust from 1 January 2018 and we offer them a very warm welcome.

Governor Training

Safer Recruitment – understanding the school process – Tuesday 9 January, 5-7pm – Rachel Hannon, HR.

Conducting a School Visit – Tuesday 16 January, 5-7pm at Transform – Jill Wilkinson, Transform

Basic Safeguarding – Tuesday 30 January, 5-7pm at Transform – Claire Smith, DSL

The Role of the SEND Governor – Wednesday 7 February, 5-7pm at Transform – Emma Hampton, SENDCO.

Health & Safety – Wednesday 28 February, 5-7pm at Transform – David Thompson, Local Authority

Andrew Hall, Safeguarding in Schools – Thursday 1 March 2018 – all day at Transform

Joint Safeguarding and Health & Safety (Jill Wilkinson and David Thompson, LA) - Thursday 15 March, 8-9am and repeated on the same day at 5-6pm

General Governors Briefing - Tuesday 19 June, 8-10am at Transform.

To book, please email: jill.wilkinson@transformtrust.co.uk

We will be re-scheduling for later in March/April time:

- Transform Trust Induction – Welcome to School Governance, and
- The Role of Governors in Complaints

Other CPD:

Nottingham City Council – **School Governors' Annual Conference** – Saturday 3 March 2018. There is a small charge of £25 to attend this conference. Please book: Rachael.harvey@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Governors: Safeguarding Update



The Trust has purchased a package of Safeguarding and Child Protection training for its central staff and has included this offer for all Safeguarding Governors across the Trust. If you are the Safeguarding Governor, you should have received an email from Hays Online training. This is an online course, which is accredited to Level 2, and we do ask that all Safeguarding Governors complete this, if you haven't already done an accredited course in the last year. If any other Governor is interested in doing the course, we can also sign you up for it – just drop me an email.

For more information contact jill.wilkinson@transformtrust.co.uk

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Governors: Compliance Update



It is important that we are able to demonstrate as a Trust that we obtain the information required by Government for all school governors. This includes:

- ✓ Your eligibility to be a school governor
- ✓ Your declaration of any business or pecuniary interests
- ✓ Your declaration of any close relationship with members of staff within the school or Trust
- ✓ Other governance roles in other educational institutions
- ✓ Your signed agreement to our Code of Conduct

We are also required by the Academies Financial Handbook to record and publish on both your school and the Trust's website:

- ✓ Attendance of governors at governing body meetings
- ✓ Appointments and resignations of Governors

Your Clerks will be asking you at the start of each academic year to update your information and, if you are a new Governor joining mid-year. Please help us to ensure that we are compliant by completing these as soon as possible. It is also part of our annual external auditing process which is then reported to the Trustees and the Department for Education. If you haven't already completed these, please let me know and I will send out the forms directly to you.

Other news



You should all now be receiving your weekly emails from NGA. This is a great resource for keeping up-to-date on all things governance, so please do check and read the emails.



Our new website is now live: www.transformtrust.co.uk



Schools are required to publish certain information on their school's website – to find out more, please visit: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/what-academies-free-schools-and-colleges-should-publish-online>

Let's Celebrate



Congratulations to Rosslyn who had a very successful Ofsted, the report isn't yet published but I'll let you know when it is.

For more information contact jill.wilkinson@transformtrust.co.uk



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Congratulations to Whitegate Primary who had a very successful Challenge Partners review at the end of November 2017. To find out more about Challenge Partners, please visit: www.challengepartners.org

Challenge Partners is a practitioner-led education charity and has over 400 schools in its membership. All our Trust schools are members and, as such, each school receives an annual review, called a QAR (quality assurance review). The review is controlled by the school and they are usually conducted in the autumn and spring terms. The team of reviewers are made up from outstanding senior leaders from other schools in the network, but led by an experienced Ofsted Inspector. Senior leaders from our schools are also trained and conduct reviews in other schools across the network which provides great CPD for our staff.

The QAR provides Governors with evidence of school improvement strategies from an external source and if you have not yet seen your school's last QAR, then please ask your Headteacher for a copy.

Governors: Statutory Duties

A reminder of the statutory duties placed on Governing Bodies:

1. Ensures that the school provides a broad and balanced curriculum in accordance with any statutory requirements.
2. Ensure that the school complies with the statutory requirements to promote Equality (compliance with the Equalities Act).
3. Ensure that the school complies with the statutory requirements relating to Special Educational needs (compliance with current legislation).

The NGA has produced some guidance which may help Governors understand SEND:

<https://www.nga.org.uk/Guidance/Pupils-and-parents/Special-educational-needs-and-disabilities-and-the/Special-educational-needs-and-disabilities-and-the.aspx>

4. Ensures that the school complies with the statutory requirements relating to health, safety and well-being of staff and pupils.
5. Ensure that the school communicates effectively with parents/guardians and takes account of their views.
6. Ensure that the school complies with employment legislation relating to leadership and management.

Funding News



We were successful in our tender to Derby City for school improvement work and this has already begun – we were awarded just under £50,000 for two bids. We are now working with around 20 Derby City Schools.



We are still waiting to hear about Round 2 of the SSIF and the Trust Development Grant – but we will keep you posted.

For more information contact jill.wilkinson@transformtrust.co.uk

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Catch up on reading – latest reports and research

Transforming children and young people’s mental health provision: a green paper.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/transforming-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-provision-a-green-paper>. The consultation closes on 4 March 2018



Don't forget to checkout your weekly emails from NGA.

Department for Education – Email alerts

You can sign up free to receive gov.uk email alerts about anything you are interested in – following the link to register: <http://bit.ly/2zHXbLw>.

Key Documents

Just a reminder of the documents that you as a Governor need to be aware of:

- **Academies Financial Handbook**
<http://bit.ly/2jQvGcR>
- **Governance Handbook and Competency Framework**
<http://bit.ly/2jW2l11>
- **Scheme of Delegation** – please check your individual school website for this.

Schools in the Trust

Now updated to include South Wilford.

| School | Local Authority | Date Joining the Trust | Chair of Governors |
|----------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Sneinton St. Stephen's | Nottingham | 1 January 2013 | Vernon Lloyd |
| Highbank Primary | Nottingham | 1 October 2013 | Alison Day |
| Edale Rise Primary | Nottingham | 1 April 2014 | Claire Smith |
| Allenton Primary | Derby | 1 January 2015 | Steve Stafford |
| Rosslyn Park Primary | Nottingham | 1 January 2015 | Alex Norris, MP |
| Brocklewood Primary | Nottingham | 1 July 2015 | Peter Munro |
| Bulwell St. Mary's Primary | Nottingham | 1 August 2016 | Karen Slack |
| Burford Primary | Nottingham | 1 August 2016 | Rob Denzel |
| Robert Shaw Primary | Nottingham | 1 June 2017 | Jill Wilkinson |
| William Booth Primary | Nottingham | 1 June 2017 | Phil Haywood |
| Breadsall Hill Top Primary | Derby | 1 July 2017 | Malcolm Staley |
| Pear Tree Junior | Derby | 1 July 2017 | Fr Andy Nicholls |
| Whitegate Primary | Nottingham | 1 July 2017 | Stewart Powell |
| South Wilford Endowed | Nottingham | 1 January 2018 | Mandy Marsh |

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Useful websites

National Governors' Association: www.nga.org.uk



General information and advice for all Governors. The Trust has bought a corporate membership package so your school will provide you with their discrete login to be able to allow you to access the members' area.

The Key for Governors: <http://bit.ly/1Km9XSy>

General Information and advice for all Governors. There is a membership charge for this organisation which is not covered in your package.



GovernorLine: <http://bit.ly/2AEyX4f>



GovernorLine is a national helpline offering free, confidential and independent advice, information and support to school governors, clerks and individuals involved directly in the governance of schools and multi-academy trusts in England. GovernorLine comprises of a telephone advice line and an email enquiry service.

Free: 0800 151 2410 between 9-8pm Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays).

Modern Governor: <http://www.moderngovernor.com> - Online learning for Governors.



For more information contact jill.wilkinson@transformtrust.co.uk