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BONUS EDITION

DFE
GOVERNANCE
UPDATE

Dear all,

I hope this bonus edition of the DGAT Governance Briefing finds you all well.

As you know we normally publish the DGAT Governance Briefing at the end of each term but yesterday the DfE published a number of important governance updates and we didn't want to delay bringing these to your attention.

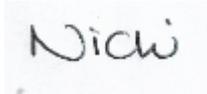
A copy of this briefing and previous briefings can be found in your member area on the DGAT website - if you need to be reminded of the password please ask your clerk or contact me at nwadley@glosdioc.org.uk

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know that staff wellbeing is high on your agenda. If there is any support I can offer you or your governing board, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Read on to discover more about the updates from the DfE and to find out about the training and events on offer to clerks and governors in the coming weeks.

With very best wishes



The Governance Handbook

An updated version of the [Governance Handbook](#) has been published. The key points are as follows:

1. Changes have been made to account for the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic
2. A new sub-section has been added on health and safety compliance
3. Further updates have been made to compliance responsibilities
4. More information included about the relationship between boards and executive leaders
5. More information has been added about the importance of professional clerking
6. The importance of diversity on the board has been highlighted
7. Further clarity has been provided on safeguarding responsibilities
8. Updates made to reflect the introduction of statutory relationships, RSE and health education
9. Updates made in line with other documents
10. Guidance on governance structures and roles has also been published

You can read more [here](#).

Governance structures and roles

The DfE has published guidance explaining common governance structures and roles within academy trusts. The guidance explains the different powers and responsibilities of roles within a Trust and provides template role descriptors. Read the guidance [here](#).

A collection of academy trust governance resources has been published on one webpage. The resources include statutory guidance and requirements, Safeguarding, SEND and pupil wellbeing, Model articles of association, financial governance, governance duties, skills, behaviours and knowledge, and much, much more. You can access the resources [here](#).

Letter from Baroness Berridge to academy trust members

Baroness Berridge has written to all academy trust members to highlight the guidance on governing body structures and roles and to further clarify the role of Members in securing successful and effective governance. Read the letter [here](#).

National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) School and Trust Governance Investigative Report

The DfE commissioned the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) to carry out a research project to provide independent evidence that can usefully inform future policy development and enable evidence-based prioritisation of resources to support school and trust governance throughout England. The research report has now been published and can be read [here](#).



We are pleased to remind you of our governance training coming up in the next couple of months.

To book any course or event please visit
<https://www.dgat.org.uk/cpd-and-events>

DGAT Governance Training 2020/21



October 2020

Role of the DGAT Safeguarding Governor

Thursday 15th 6.00 pm - 8.00 pm

Join Helen Springett and Nicki Wadley to explore the role of the DGAT Safeguarding Governor, identify appropriate monitoring questions. Helen and Nicki will also focus on Safeguarding during the Coronavirus pandemic. The Safeguarding Governor or a representative from each school should attend this training.

Clerks Forum

Tuesday 20th 10.00am - 1.00 pm

Join Ellie Hully and Nicki Wadley for the first Clerks' Forum of this academic year. This meeting will focus on policy management, the DGAT website and the DGAT Scheme of Delegation. There will be an opportunity to bring questions to the meeting for Ellie and Nicki to answer.

GovernorHub Demo

Monday 2nd 6.00 pm - 7.00 pm

GovernorHub is a GDPR compliant document handling and storage platform that we are considering purchasing for the Trust. We have arranged for a representative from GovernorHub to provide a live demonstration so we can see the product in action and ask questions. We warmly invite Clerks and a representative from each local governing board to join this demonstration – your feedback will be an important part of our decision-making. To find out more about GovernorHub click [here](#).

You can join the demonstration via Zoom, booking is not required. The meeting information is as follows:

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://zoom.us/j/95767919621?
pwd=ZlpkQmZuSHlnTGloODREemJWZzNmQT09](https://zoom.us/j/95767919621?pwd=ZlpkQmZuSHlnTGloODREemJWZzNmQT09)

Meeting ID: 957 6791 9621

Passcode: 787555

Effective Monitoring and Challenge

Wednesday 4th 9.00 am - 12.00 pm

Facilitated by Nicki Wadley this short course will focus on how local governing boards can effectively plan and carry out successful monitoring. the course will also explore monitoring during the current challenges schools and governing boards are facing.

Role of the DGAT Pupil Premium Governor

Tuesday 10th 6.00 pm - 8.00 pm

Join Aisling Stranack and Nicki Wadley to explore the role of the DGAT Pupil Premium Governor, become familiar with the DGAT pupil premium reporting template, and identify appropriate monitoring questions. The Pupil Premium Governor or a representative from each school should attend this training.

Introduction to Governance

Nicki Wadley will take course attendees on an introductory tour of governance, focussing on strategic leadership, effective accountability and the three core responsibilities of governing boards.

Please note that there is a minimal charge for this course

Governing in a MAT - Welcome to DGAT

Tuesday 17th 6.00 pm - 8.00 pm

Join Rachel Howie, CEO and Helen Springett, Deputy CEO who will explore what it means to be a local governor in DGAT and explain the Trust's scheme of delegation and the important role of the local governing board within the Trust's governance structure.

Writing Effective Minutes

Thursday 19th 1.00 pm - 3.00 pm

Join Nicki Wadley to develop your minute writing skills to ensure that local governing board meetings are recorded accurately, professionally, and provide good evidence to demonstrate the work of the governing board.

Please note that there is a minimal charge for this course

An Introduction to Clerking in a MAT

Thursday 19th 9.00 am - 12.00 pm

Join Ellie Hully and Nicki Wadley to learn more about clerking for a DGAT local governing board, including the delegated responsibilities of the local governing board to enable clerks to provide expert and professional guidance.

Please note that there is a minimal charge for this course

Complaints Panel Training

Monday 23rd 6.00 pm - 7.30 pm

This course will be facilitated by colleagues from the Local Authority and

Please note that there is a minimal charge for this course



'Natter with Nicki' is a new opportunity to network within the DGAT family. Join our Governance Lead, Nicki to ask questions, chat all things governance and connect with local governance colleagues from across the Trust.

5th October 2020
9.30 am - 11.30 am and 5.30 pm and 7.30 pm

9th December 2020
9.30 am - 11.30 am and 5.30 pm and 7.30 pm

10th February 2021
9.30 am - 11.30 am and 5.30 pm and 7.30 pm

7th April 2021
9.30 am - 11.30 am and 5.30 pm and 7.30 pm

9 June 2021
9.30 am - 11.30 am and 5.30 pm and 7.30 pm

Simply contact Nicki or ask your Clerk for the Zoom link and join any time between the times shown and join the conversation!



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