

GOVERNOR TALK

Hello Governors

October 2018

Welcome to the first Governor Talk of the 2018/19 academic year. I hope the first half-term has gone as well as expected and that staff and children have settled into their learning. This October issue will be featuring updates on Trust governance, a reminder of Governor training as well as useful websites for you to take away to consider - Jill

New Schools

We are delighted to welcome Zaytouna Primary School to our Governance family. Zaytouna joined the Trust on 1 September 2018 and are our fourth Faith school! They will join up with our schools in both the Faith and Derby Partnerships. Their curriculum is underpinned by the principles of the Islamic Faith and British Values and we are excited by what they bring to our family.



Trust Board Update

We welcome Joanna Luxton as a new Transform Trustee. Joanna has a legal background and is a specialist in employment law and we are sure will be a great asset to our Board.

Sadly, we are saying farewell to Alison Day who has been on our Board since the Trust started. We are sure you will want to join us in wishing her well in her future endeavours.

Standards Meetings with the CEO

A reminder that all Governors have an open invitation to attend their school's termly Standards Meetings with Rebecca Meredith, CEO of the Trust. These meetings focus on current performance, interventions and progress of the school, and they help deepen knowledge and questioning techniques. They also offer a mechanism in which to celebrate and showcase what's going well.

Chairs Forum

The Chairs' Forum meets termly, with the next meeting being Tuesday 13 November 2018. This is for the Chairs of each Governing Body to attend and is open for Vice Chairs to join. If you are a Vice Chair and would like to be included, please let Sheila Laithwaite know via email: sheila.laithwaite@transformtrust.co.uk. The next date after our meeting in November is Tuesday 19 March 2019.

Governor Training

You should all have received invites via Eventbrite to our face-to-face training events. We are offering a range of training at different venues on different dates and we hope to see you at these. The Trust has also negotiated an online training package via SSSLearning which offers a range of safeguarding and GDPR modules. The online modules are flexible and can be completed at any time.

We expect that all Governors should have undertaken annual refresher safeguarding training, have completed Prevent, GDPR and an induction into school governance [particularly if you are new to governance].

Feedback & Request

We are getting feedback that some Governors would like to the opportunity to attend another school's Governing Body. If you are a Governing Body that would be willing to host a fellow Governor from another school, please let me know and I will facilitate this on your behalf.

Clerking Update

Joining Sheila, our Trust Clerk, is Leni Robson who is the Clerk for Zaytouna. We are still trying to develop our online system – Trust Governor which is taking longer than we initially anticipated, and we will keep you posted as to its progress.

HR and Unions Update

I would like to thank Rachel Hannon who meets with all the Union Reps to ensure that our Trust HR policies go through their consultation processes before they reach schools. This gives Governors confidence and assurance that our Policies are developed in the best interests of our staff and schools.



Safeguarding Update

If you are the Safeguarding Governor, you will need to be familiar with the below updated legislation:

- Keeping Children Safe in Education, September 2018 - Statutory guidance for schools and colleges on safeguarding children and safer recruitment. <https://tinyurl.com/p9cxb7e>
- Working Together to Safeguard Children, August 2018 - Statutory guidance on inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. <https://tinyurl.com/nfpas5c>
- 15 Day Rapid Review – Chapter 4 of the above sets out statutory guidance for the new arrangements – a learning process to help quicken the serious case review process.

Horizon Scanning

Ofsted – latest from Amanda Spielman, Chief Inspector of Schools: The emphasis of Ofsted inspections will “shift up the management structure,” but lesson observations will continue because teachers want them, Amanda Spielman has said. The Chief Inspector of Schools told Schools Week that although she wasn’t pledging “in absolute terms” that inspectors will spend less time in lessons, schools should see the “weighting” of involvement.. read more here:

<https://tinyurl.com/y8rowpu9>

Education Secretary Damian Hinds has vowed to take action on exclusions once Edward Timpson’s review has concluded, saying he would not rule out legislation to ensure more accountability for schools that permanently exclude children and place them in alternative provision. Read more here:

<https://tinyurl.com/y7aavfa8>

The NGA has proposed to the DfE that there is a fourth Core Function of Governance – ‘ensuring effective engagement with stakeholders’ As you know, stakeholder views are a statutory responsibility but this goes a little further. It will be interesting to see if this is included in the next update of the Governance Handbook.

If you haven’t already had the chance to read the NGA’s latest survey, below are a couple of the key findings, the full findings and report can be viewed at:

<https://tinyurl.com/y84lr6k5>

- Funding is the biggest issue for governing boards. Only half of respondents said that they were balancing income and expenditure with almost a third drawing on reserves. 75% of those drawing on reserves said these would be exhausted within two years.
- High needs funding is a big concern, with 74% of respondents saying they disagree that current funding is sufficient.
- Almost half of schools covered by the survey are providing additional services for families in need, including washing school uniforms, meals outside of term time, food banks and emergency loans. 38% of schools are providing financial support with purchasing school uniforms.
- The time commitment involved in governing roles is a potential barrier to some volunteers taking on or continuing governance roles, particularly when it comes to stepping up to chair.

We are in the process of renewing the membership to the NGA for all our Governors. If you are not receiving weekly NGA emails, please let Jill Wilkinson know: jill.wilkinson@transformtrust.co.uk.

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 Sheila Laithwaite can 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.



The School Bus

<https://tinyurl.com/yagorkbf> - This is another great website with lots of resources, articles and model policies etc for Governors and Schools but comes as a membership which is quite costly.



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Regional Schools Commissioner, DfE

John Edwards, Regional Schools Commissioner, attended the NGA's East Midlands Regional Conference held on 29 September 2018. If you would like to receive a copy of his presentation or the workshop on SEND, please let Jill know.

Some of his key messages included:

- How effective governance raises standards – confident and strategic leadership; leads the transition from vision to plan to delivery; holds itself and the leadership to account; uses data to anticipate challenges related to performance, financial sustainability and risk and committed to self-evaluation and recognises the benefit of peer challenge.
- He confirmed that the existing floor and coasting standards will remain in place.
- The DfE are improving their school improvement pages on GOV.UK by introducing a new section dedicated to school improvement support which schools can access.

New Trust Central Staff

We would like to give the following members of staff a very warm welcome as they have recently joined our Transform family.

Phil Herd - Lead Practitioner, Development Team
Mark Lowe - Lead Practitioner, Development Team
Jaime Revill-Jessop - HR Manager, HR Team
Sarah Doig - PA to CEO, Operations Team

We have also welcomed back Rebecca Williamson and Amy Turner, Lead Associates, from maternity leave.



Phil Herd



Mark Lowe



Sarah Doig



Jaime Revill-Jessop



Rebecca Williamson



Amy Turner

Thank you!

Thank you for tuning in to our October issue of Governor Talk. If you have any suggestions or queries about this issue, please do not hesitate to contact Jill Wilkinson: jill.wilkinson@transformtrust.co.uk.

We hope that you have a fantastic term - don't forget to look out for our next issue of Governor Talk - providing the latest updates on Governance.

Useful Information

GovernorLine

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.

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

Modern Governor

<https://tinyurl.com/ybzo4nqh>
- Online learning for Governors.

