

Governor Briefing Autumn

September 22 2025

Agenda

1. **Welcome and Governor Services and LA update - Donna Muir – 6.00-6.20**
2. **Safeguarding- Emma Geiringer (Safeguarding in Schools Lead) 6.25-6.45**
3. **HR Update – Shereen Moussa (Head of Schools Human Resources) 6.45-7.15**
4. **Climate Change - Georgia Moss- Climate Change Programme Officer) 7.15-7.30**

We are Recording!

Please do turn off your microphones during the introduction and presentations and to avoid interference for everyone

Slides of presentations will be uploaded to Governor Hub after the meeting.

Welcome and Governor Services and LA update - Donna Muir

Welcome and LA Updates

Donna Muir – Head of Governor Services

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Welcome and LA Updates

- **Education structure update**
 - Deputy Director Children's
 - Assistant Director - School Partnerships, Standards and Sustainability
 - Head of Support Services
 - BAU for SIPs
- **School standards letters being circulated**
- **KCSIE – Please Update**
- **Declarations of Interest – Please Update**

Welcome and LA Updates

- **Governor Vacancies** – Register your vacancies with Governors for Schools' free service.
- **SGA** – Re-launch – Governors needed for Management Committee
 - Date TBC
- **Governors Diversity Data** – Please fill in so that we can prioritise areas of development
- **New Ofsted Framework**
 - Key Article, NGA Article

LA Updates

- **Diversity data** –Please complete via GovernorHub - 'Personal Information' page and contribute to a board diversity report. The report will only generate if a minimum number of governors have filled this in.
- **Independent Clerks forum** –24 September 12-1 pm via Zoom
- **Chairs Connect**
- **Southwark Schools Website** – Reminder this had a [governance section](#) and is free and useful!
- **2025-2026 Training programme/brochure** available to view via [Governor Hub](#). Also, via the [SELA website](#).
- **Chairs Growth Pathway**

LA Updates - Key Dates

Autumn Term 2025

Independent Clerk Briefing – 24 September 2025 12-1 pm via Zoom– [Click here to register](#)

Chairs Connect - TBC

SGA meeting - TBC

Spring Term 2026

Governor Forum - 20 January 2026 at 6-p.m. – via Zoom - [Click here to register](#)

Independent Clerk Briefing - 21 January 2025 at 12-1 p.m. via Zoom– [Click here to register](#)

Summer Term 2026

Governor Forum - 06 May 2026 – 6 p.m. – via Zoom - [Click here to register](#)

Independent Clerk Briefing - 13 May 2026 - 12-1 p.m. – [Click here to register](#)

Chairs Growth Pathway

Chair's Growth Pathway

- Introduction of Chair's Growth Pathway
 - [Southwark Schools Website](#)
- **Clear Role Definition** – Outlines core responsibilities and expectations.
- **Reflective Practice** – Encourages self-assessment in a supportive way.
- **Focused Development** – Highlights training needs for targeted support.
- **Stronger Leadership** – Builds confident governance and better school outcomes.
- **Chairs Connect: A Virtual Forum for Leadership, Learning & Support**
- **Format:** Informal, one-hour virtual sessions
- **Frequency:** Around 3 times a year
- **Facilitation:** Led by a Chair or co-facilitated
- **Structure:** Each session will focus on a key theme (e.g., Ofsted, how to lead meetings, setting vision, dealing with complaints, succession planning)
- **Interactive Element:** A Chair will kick off with a 10-minute case study, followed by open discussion and peer exchange
- **Chair specific training**

Governance News and Updates

Governance News and Updates

Governance guides for maintained schools & academy trusts have been updated. Changes include:

- A requirement for chairs to sign off the PE and sport premium digital report
- Mental health and wellbeing responsibilities outlined more clearly for boards
- More guidance on policy expectations for supporting pupils in school with medical conditions
- Clarification on what Ofsted will do when it receives a complaint about a school
- School food standards added to 'statutory guidance and additional resources for trusts'

KCSIE - The new version of [Keeping Children Safe in Education \(KCSIE\)](#) comes into force on 1 September 2025. Please do ensure that all governors read the new guidance and update your record on Governor Hub annually.

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework has been updated to strengthen safeguarding requirements.

Governance News and Updates

- **Updated statutory guidance on reasonable force** - From September 2025, schools will be legally required to record and report incidents where reasonable force is used. Schools need to review and update their behaviour management and use of force policies to reflect the new requirements. The rest of guidance is due to be published following consultation.
- **The Children's Wellbeing and Schools bill**
 - **Academies** must follow national teacher pay rules (STPCD) and the reformed National Curriculum.
 - **Free breakfast clubs** required in all state primary schools.
 - **Uniform rules** will limit the number of branded items schools can demand.
 - **Children Not in School registers** will be introduced, requiring local authorities to track home-educated and other out-of-school children
 - **Mandatory National Curriculum and Qualified Teacher Status for Academies**
 - **Governors** will need to ensure compliance with these requirements, especially in academies that previously had more flexibility

Governance News and Updates

- The new [Academy Trust Handbook \(ATH\) 2025](#) came into force on **1 September**
- **Martyns Law**
 - Law, the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025. The Act will make those responsible for premises and events legally accountable for minimising the impact of a terrorist attack.
 - The law applies across education, covering LA maintained schools, academies, independent schools, colleges, training providers and universities. There will be a 24-month
 - There is a two year implementation period
 - Schools hold responsibility for safeguarding and site security but the law emphasises governors strategic role in overseeing safety
 - Boards will need assurance that that leaders are conducting risk assessments for events, updating emergency procedures and preparing staff and pupils.

Ofsted Framework

Ofsted Inspection Reforms – What's Changing (Nov 2025)

New Education Inspection Framework (EIF)

- Replaces single judgement with a **report card**
- **5-point grading scale**: Exceptional, Strong, Expected, Needs Attention, Urgent Improvement
- **6–8 evaluation areas**: Leadership, Curriculum, Attendance, Achievement, Wellbeing, Inclusion
- **Safeguarding** graded separately: *Met / Not Met*

• Inspection Types

- All inspections now **full inspections**
- **Monitoring inspections** for 'Needs Attention'
- **Focused inspections** replace urgent inspections

• New Support Documents

- Inspection toolkit
- Operating guide
- Public info guide

Ofsted Inspection Reforms – What's Changing (Nov 2025)

Leadership and governance

Under the leadership and governance evaluation areas, inspectors will consider the extent to which governors/trustees:

- are knowledgeable about their statutory duties and carry them out effectively
- support and challenge the school's leaders effectively
- understand their role in considering and addressing leaders' workload and wellbeing
- assure themselves that leaders have an accurate understanding of the school's context and are prioritising the right actions for improvement
- ensure that systems for monitoring and quality assurance are fair, valid and constructive, and inform continuous improvement
- hold leaders to account for the impact of the school's professional learning programme for staff
- hold leaders to account for the school's support and provision for disadvantaged pupils who may face barriers to their learning and/or wellbeing