

Governor Briefing

Spring

20 January 2026

Agenda

1. Welcome and Governor Services update - **Donna Muir (Head of Governor Services)**
2. LA Update - **Nikki Tilson – (Assistant Director, School Partnerships, Sustainability and Standards)**
3. Curriculum update – **Cara Cahill - (Senior Adviser (School Improvement))**
4. HR Update – **Shereen Moussa – (Head of Schools Human Resources)**

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 update - Donna Muir

Welcome

Donna Muir – Head of Governor Services

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- governor.services@southwark.gov.uk
- Selina.Mcclure@southwark.gov.uk

Governance news

DfE introduces Attendance Baseline Improvement Expectations (ABIEs)

- New minimum attendance expectations for all mainstream schools, starting September 2026.
 - Each school will receive an AI-powered ABIE to track and improve attendance.
 - Linked to support, not interventions; statutory duties remain unchanged.
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- **New DfE guidance on the use of restrictive interventions in schools**
 - new statutory recording and reporting requirements from 1 April 2026.
 - **Government to introduce academy trust inspections**

Actions this term

Finance

SFVS -Complete and approve the Schools Financial Value Standard return by 31 March 2026, recording approval in minutes.

Financial Procedures Manual- Adopt and record the updated Financial Procedures Manual revised in June 2025.

Pension Compliance- Document pension responsibility discussions to demonstrate audit readiness and compliance.

Budget Planning and Forecasts - The finance committee should review the budget in detail before the spring term full governing board meeting, where it will be ratified.

Attendance - Your school will have received an **Indicative** ABIE in November, so you can track what your ABIE would have been for the 2025/26 academic year.

Vacancies - register with [Governors for Schools](#).. If you need any additional support, please contact [governor services](#)

Training

Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Sessions

These sessions will equip you with practical strategies to lead on equality and diversity in your schools.

 **Leading the Way: How Governors can Drive EDI in Schools**

 **Thu 22 Jan | 18:00–19:30**

 [Book here](#)

 **Diversifying Governing Bodies: Practical Steps to Create Diverse Boards**

 **Thu 26 March | 18:00–19:30**

 [Book here](#)

Ensure at least one board member is trained in [Prevent Duty](#), [Cyber security](#) and [Safer Recruitment](#) to meet legal requirements.

Southwark Governance news

- **Independent Clerks forum** —If your clerk is employed directly by the school, please ensure they are given time to attend.
- **Chairs Connect - Volunteers needed**
- **Southwark Schools Website** – Reminder this had a governance section and is free and useful!
- **Training programme/brochure** available to view via Governor Hub. Also, via the SELA website.

National Governor Awareness Day



NATIONAL
GOVERNORS
AWARENESS DAY

**SOUTHWARK
GOVERNORS
ASSOCIATION**

**NETWORKING
CASE STUDY
AND AGM**

**TOOLEY
STREET**

Southwark Council
160 Tooley St
London SE1 2QH

**FEB 12
FROM
5.30PM
TO 8PM**

Sandwiches, Refreshments and nibbles!
**ALL GOVERNORS, HEADS
AND GOVERNANCE
PROFESSIONALS
WELCOME!**

Quiz

Southwark
Council

Southwark
Education and
Learning and
Achievement

SGA – 12th February – Networking event and celebration

[National Governor Awareness Day – Sign up for Training Sessions](#)

8am – Welcome and Hot Topics

10am - Raising the Bar: expectations of effective governance in 2026

11am - Safeguarding That Makes a Difference: what great governance looks like

12pm - When Good Governance has Impact

1pm - Becoming a Governor

2pm - Becoming an Academy Trustee

4pm - Recruiting a Chair: The Importance of Strong Leadership

6pm - The Wellbeing of Governors and Trustees

Key Dates

Spring Term 2026

Independent Clerk Briefing - 21 January 2025 at 12-1 p.m. via Zoom– [Click here to register](#)
Southwark Governors Association – Networking event including AGM and Case study

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](#)

Governor Survey

GOVERNOR SERVICES SURVEY 2026



WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK!



SCAN ME!



Southwark
Education
Learning and
Achievement



Southwark
Council

