

Governor Briefing Autumn

2026

Agenda

1. Welcome – Eileen Bryan (*Head of Governor Services*)

2. H&S Intro – Ian Perring – (*Schools Health and Safety Advisor*)

3. LA Update - Nikki Tilson (*Assistant Director, School Partnerships, Sustainability and Standards*) and Suzanne Wright (*Head of School Support and Admissions*)

4. SEND Update - Cathrine Milmine (*Assistant Director for SEND*)

5. HR Update – Shereen Moussa – (*Head of Schools Human Resources*)

6. Governor Services update Eileen Bryan - (*Head of Governor Services*)

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

H&S Introduction

Ian Perring

LA Update

Nikki Tilson and Suzanne Wright

SEND Update

Cathrine Milmine

HR Update

Shereen Moussa

Governor Services update

Contacts



Head of Governor Services

- ✉ Eileen.Bryan@southwark.gov.uk
- ✉ HeadGovernorServices@southwark.gov.uk



Selina McClure Governor Services Coordinator

- ✉ Selina.Mcclure@southwark.gov.uk



Training Enquiries

- ✉ governortraining@southwark.gov.uk



General Enquiries

- ✉ governor.services@southwark.gov.uk

Immediate Priorities from September 2026

Boards should ensure their schools are ready to meet the following duties:

- **Mobile Phone Ban:** Schools must have a policy [banning mobile phones](#) during the school day
- **School uniform:** Schools may require no more than three branded uniform items (four in secondary schools). Uniform policies should be reviewed promptly, in line with the DfE school uniform [guidance](#) and [statutory guidance](#) on the cost of school uniforms.
- **Free breakfast clubs:** All primary schools are required to provide free breakfast clubs. Boards should seek assurance from leaders on funding, sustainability, and quality of provision.
- **Free school meals:** Eligibility is extended to all households in receipt of Universal Credit, significantly widening entitlement.
- **Allergy Safety** - [New statutory allergy guidance](#) from September 2026 will require schools to **have a standalone allergy policy**, trained staff, a named allergy lead, accessible spare adrenaline auto-injectors, and individual healthcare plans where needed

News- Cont

Safeguarding : [Keeping children safe in education - GOV.UK](#). Governors and trustees should ensure their boards are sighted on any changes and that safeguarding oversight remains a standing agenda item

Protecting education setting's images from AI manipulation and abuse- The guidance can be accessed using [this link](#)

Safeguarding Training

05 Nov 2026 | 18:00-19:30

[BOOK HERE](#)

Inclusion Strategy

Schools must publish an [Inclusion Strategy](#) on their website by **31 December 2026**. The report should outline identified barriers to learning and participation, actions taken to address them, intended outcomes, and a review of the previous academic year. It should also explain how the IMF grant, core budget, and notional SEN budget will support an inclusive core offer.

[How to review your school's inclusion strategy | GovernorHub Knowledge](#)

News- Cont

Suspensions and exclusions

- The DfE has published updated guidance which comes into effect on **26 July 2026**. It replaces the existing guidance on suspensions and exclusions.
- See here [summary of the changes](#).

Exclusions & Suspensions Briefing

1 Oct 2026 | 18:00-19:30

[BOOK HERE](#)

Reminders -

Vacancies

- Register vacancies [Boards for Education](#)
- Governor Services can provide additional recruitment support

Governing Body Size

- Notify us of any changes to governing body size
- Required for updated Instrument of Government

LA Governors

- Check LA governor **terms of office**
- Submit appointment/re-appointment proposals early

Southwark Schools Website – Reminder this had a [governance section](#) and is free and useful!

Reminders – Audit

Register of Business Interests (RoBI) - Register of Interests must be published on your school's website.

Applies to: Governors and Associate Members in maintained schools: Members, Trustees and Local Governors in academies



Action Governors must complete their declaration of interests (this can be done via **GovernorHub** (under profile)

Signed Minutes - Minutes should be approved by the governing board as a true and accurate record. Once approved, minutes should be signed by the Chair. Signed minutes can be stored electronically in **GovernorHub**.

Financial Governance

Ensure your **Financial Procedures Manual** and **Scheme of Delegation** are aligned and up to date. Responsibilities and delegated authorities should be clearly reflected across both documents.

School Financial Value Standard (SFVS) & Deficit Recovery Plans

Ensure **SFVS** documents are completed, approved and signed.

Where applicable, **Deficit Recovery Plans** should also be signed and appropriately retained.

Reminders -Website and GIAS

Statutory requirement

- Governance information must be **accurate, consistent and up to date**

School Website

- Governing body & committee structure; Register of Business interests, details of Governors who served in the last 12 months, meeting attendance records. Full details on DfE website.

GIAS website (DfE)

- **GIAS** must contain up-to-date information on the school's current and historic (12 months post-end-of-term-of-office) governors and trustees. Updated by the school (e.g. SBM access)



Action

School governors must ensure that the school website and GIAS publishes up-to-date governance details.

Training this Half term

Action Training Action for Governors

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

**Championing the Needs of Children
Looked After**

29 Sept 2026 | 18:00-19:30

[BOOK HERE](#)

Preparing for Ofsted

30 Sept 2026 | 18:00-19:30

[BOOK HERE](#)

Creating a shared vision & values

1 Oct 2026 | 18:30-20:00

[BOOK HERE](#)

Exclusions & Suspensions Briefing

1 Oct 2026 | 18:00-19:30

[BOOK HERE](#)

**Human Resources – What Governors
Need to know**

12 Oct 2026 | 18:00-19:30

[BOOK HERE](#)

Key Dates

Independent Clerks Briefing –

23 September 2026 - 12-1pm - [Click here to register](#)

20 January 2027 - 12-1pm – [Click here to register](#)

12 May 2027 - 12-1pm - [Click here to register](#)

Governor's Forum dates for 2026-2027

Tuesday 19 January 2027 – 6 pm- Via Zoom - [Register in advance for this meeting](#)

Wednesday 5 May 2027 – 6 pm at Tooley Street

Your Feedback Matters



Help us improve by sharing your views.



Complete the feedback form when you leave the meeting or scan QR code

