



Buckinghamshire Education
School Support & Training
(BESST)



Supporting schools to get the best outcomes for every child



Welcome to BESST – Buckinghamshire Education School Support & Training.

BESST is the new traded school improvement and governor support service from Buckinghamshire Council. We will provide support, training and development opportunities to schools and academies across Buckinghamshire in school leadership and governance. Led by our experienced team, BESST services will enable school leaders to keep up to date and support the implementation of best practice across Buckinghamshire. Our services will continue to develop in the coming months based on feedback from school leaders and governors.

BESST is sharply focused on supporting schools to achieve the best outcomes for every child in Buckinghamshire. See more online at [BESST](#).



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Why launch a new traded service in Buckinghamshire?

We recognise that delivering the best possible outcomes for children is the main priority for all school leaders and governors. The aim of BESST is to help school leaders and governors deliver a great education to all children and young people in Buckinghamshire, allowing them, regardless of their starting point, to realise their potential and embark on a positive and exciting future.

BESST aims to deliver against identified development needs in Buckinghamshire. We will ensure that our capacity is directed to those areas which school leaders and governors have told us are of greatest need. Where partners can provide expert support and training, we will signpost schools to these opportunities.

Our services will be delivered by our team of school improvement experts who care passionately about supporting schools to secure the best possible outcomes for their pupils and students. We are starting small, with a focus on governor training and support. We will be building the capacity and expertise within the team and are aiming to provide additional services, which meet the needs of headteachers and governing boards, throughout this academic year and beyond.

BESST services will be run alongside our statutory work. The income from our competitively priced BESST services will help to deliver excellent school improvement support in Buckinghamshire for today and the future.

We very much welcome input from school leaders and governors into the continued development of our services, so please do get in contact at besst@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.

Services for Academic Year 2021/22

BESST services are starting small and focused on **governor support & training**, the area where our research with headteachers, chairs of governors and clerks has told us the need is greatest.

The following are the key services being offered to governors for autumn term 2021/22:



Governor Development Programme - Governor training & development is a vital element in every governing board's effectiveness. Recognising that governors need flexibility, we offer a comprehensive 'pay as you go' training programme for all governors throughout the academic year. Delivered by expert Buckinghamshire Council teams and selected partners, the training is tailored to governors within the county. Training will be only £25 per delegate (one-hour), with selected sessions, such as termly agenda setting and Prevent Duty guidance, free to access.

Please [click here](#) for details of the full autumn term Governor Development Program and how to book.

New Governors Welcome Package - We are committed to ensuring newly appointed governors are up to speed and effective in their roles as quickly as possible. We are therefore offering a package of welcome training and support to all new governors, with two cohorts during academic year 2021/22 – one starting in autumn term 2021 and the other starting in spring term 2022.

Please [click here](#) for details of the autumn term New Governor Welcome Package and how to book. The starting date and deadline for booking onto the autumn term cohort is the 29th September.



School Improvement Services



We are offering a limited number of School Improvement services this term and will be building school improvement support over the course of this year and beyond.

Headteacher Performance Management - Headteacher performance management plays a vital role in the governing board's core function of holding the school to account for the performance of the school and for the performance management of its staff. The role of the external advisor is to provide support on the legal process, help interpret data and other performance information, and advise on how to frame objectives for the coming year. BESST can offer experienced external advisor support to schools, **with a new headteacher only**, this academic year. We plan to expand this service next academic year as capacity in the School Improvement team increases.

If you are a school with a new headteacher and wish to discuss potential headteacher performance management support, please contact besst@buckinghamshire.gov.uk for an informal discussion and more information.

Upcoming Development Sessions

The training and development programme starts on the 22nd September with a session delivered by the BASG on **Governor Priorities - Autumn Term Agendas**, followed by **Prevent Duty – Guidance for Governors** on the 23rd September.

Please [click here](#) for details of the full autumn term Governor Development Program and how to book.

Governor Priorities – Autumn Term Agendas

Date: Wednesday 22nd September

Time: 6.30-7.30pm

Led by: Paul Randall & Anne Sheddick

Via: TEAMS

This is a free session for governors to review their priorities for this autumn term. The session will include information updates from the DfE, NGA and the LA priorities to help Boards set their agenda items and tasks for the autumn term.

Click [here](#) to book

Prevent Duty - Guidance for Governors

Date: Thursday 23rd September

Time: 6.30-7.30pm

Led by: Alison Watts

Via: TEAMS

A free training session exploring what extremism is, the current climate, how extremists are using Covid to promote their narrative and how Prevent and Channel work in Buckinghamshire.

Click [here](#) to book

National Governance Association (NGA) Membership



The National Governance Association (NGA) is the membership organisation for governors, trustees and clerks of state schools in England. It provides information, advice and guidance, professional development and e-learning for all governors.

As in previous years, we are able to offer a discounted rate for academies and free schools wishing to purchase membership to the Standard Package, the Gold Package and to Learning Link, and for maintained schools who wish to upgrade to gold membership.

Please [click](#) here for more information and how to purchase or upgrade.

Buckinghamshire Council will purchase standard NGA membership for maintained school governing boards for academic year 2021/22, as we build our support for governors internally.

Frequently Asked Questions

During the summer term, we undertook research with headteachers, chairs of governors and governor clerks to understand the key needs of a traded service in Buckinghamshire – thank you to all those who took part.

We were asked a couple of recurring questions, so please find the answers below:

Why is the governing training no longer funded?...

- Funded training was provided in academic year 2020/21 only, to support governing boards across Buckinghamshire during a time of significant need.
- Charging this year has been introduced at a very competitive price.
- Income is needed to support enhanced and sustainable school improvement and governor support in Buckinghamshire.
- The offer this year will be on a 'pay as you go' basis, to support governing boards.

Do you have the capacity to do this well?...

- BESST will be starting with a small range of core services that we know we have the capacity to manage well and will be building services only as additional capacity comes on board.
- Research told us that support for governors is the area of greatest need, hence why we have focused our initial services on governor training and support for new governors.
- The School Improvement team are working in partnership with the BASG and experts within the Council to deliver these initial training services.

Haven't we been here before?...

- BESST is part of the Buckinghamshire Council School Improvement Service, and as such will be closely managed in synergy with our statutory duties.
- BESST is focused only on the needs of Buckinghamshire school leaders.
- We are aiming to meet identified needs only, we are not aiming to compete with other organisations.
- We will be focusing on services where a Buckinghamshire perspective adds value.
- Income will be reinvested in support for Buckinghamshire schools.

And finally..

Feedback from all stakeholders is really important to ensure that we build a service that meets the needs of schools across Buckinghamshire.

We will be quality assuring each service through post activity feedback and evaluations. However, if you have any other thoughts, comments, suggestions or ideas regarding the development of BESST, please do let us know by clicking this [link](#).

We wish you all a healthy, happy and successful autumn term.

The School Improvement Team.



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