



BESST Newsletter for Governors – September 2022

Embedding a culture of safeguarding

As Governors, you play a vital role in making sure your school is continuing to put robust safeguarding and child protection procedures in place. Safeguarding is most successful where schools embed a culture of safeguarding; meaning there is a clear safeguarding ethos, a policy that sets out clear expectations and processes, and high-quality training that ensures staff know what to do and do it consistently across the school. Safeguarding remains the utmost priority for the local authority in Buckinghamshire and the single most important area commented upon by Ofsted in their inspections.

Keeping Children Safe in Education now emphasises that governors and trustees should receive appropriate safeguarding and child protection training at induction, and then at regular intervals. Training should provide governors and trustees with the knowledge to ensure their school's safeguarding policies and procedures are effective.

We were pleased that over 50 governors joined Georgina Masefield's Introduction to Safeguarding training this month; if you missed it, please look out for the course being run again in the spring term.

In addition, governing boards are encouraged to make use of the following resources in embedding a culture of safeguarding in your schools:

- **Safeguarding courses for governors from BESST:**
 - **Promoting Pupil Well-Being** – 6th October @18.30-19.30 online
 - **The Safeguarding Governor's Role in an Ofsted Inspection** – 11th October @18.30-19.30 online
 - **Prevent Duty – Guidance for Governors** – 8th November @18.30-19.30 online
 - **Internet Safety – Keeping Children Safe Online** – 6th December @18.30-19.30 online

[Book BESST \(Buckinghamshire Education School Support & Training\) courses here](#)



- **Safeguarding Resources from the National Governance Association**
 - **Webinar - The Governance of Safeguarding** – 19th October 2022 @13.00
[NGA webinars - National Governance Association](#)
 - **Learning Link Module: Safeguarding – the governor's role** – this 90 minute e-learning module covers the responsibilities of governors and the national context, but does not contain Buckinghamshire specific material.
Membership of Learning Link is required to access this course.
 - **Safeguarding: A guide for governing boards** This [downloadable guide](#) outlines governing boards' safeguarding responsibilities. *Membership of the NGA is required to access this guide.*

Inducting new governors

A well-planned induction makes a significant impact for new governors in becoming familiar with their school / trust and understanding what their role entails. If you have new governors on your governing board, the following resources will be useful to you and to them.

- [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#)
- [Buckinghamshire New Governor Guide](#)
- **Recommended Governor Induction Courses from BESST:**
 - **Being Strategic, What Good Governance Looks Like** – 18th October
 - **Drop In for New Governors** – 1st November
 - **Prevent Duty** – Guidance for Governors – 8th November
 - **Getting the most out of your governor monitoring visits** – 29th November
 - **Internet Safety, Keeping Children Safe Online** – 6th December
- [NGA Guide to Inducting New Governors](#) *Membership of the NGA is required to access this guide*
- [Learning Link Induction modules](#) *Membership of Learning Link is required to access this course.*

New to your role?

The new academic year is often a time when governing boards re-allocate roles and responsibilities. Whether you are a new chair, a new SEND governor or a new link governor for a specific subject or topic, there is a wealth of information available to you through BESST, the NGA, the Key and other sources.

- **Governor role specific courses from BESST:**
 - **Development Governors – Building an Effective Board** – 4th October
 - **Safeguarding Governors – Role in an Ofsted Inspection** – 11th October

- **SEND Governors – Role of the governing board in overseeing SEND – 15th November**
- **PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) Governors – Championing high quality PSHE – 22nd November**

[Book BESST courses here](#)

Useful Resources

- **The headteacher and governor handbook** on [Schools Web](#) has been updated for the new academic year. As well as providing a summary of the local authority's various teams and their areas of responsibility, the handbook now includes two appendices – a list of contact details for local authority officers and a list of significant dates for headteachers.
- **The SEN Support Toolkit** on [Schools Web](#) has been co-produced with parents, children, young people and subject specialists from a range of agencies. The purpose of the toolkit is to build upon the success of the Buckinghamshire Ordinarily Available Provision (OAP) document by providing professionals with:
 - Information on presenting needs
 - Guidance on how to support young people
 - Current best practices

It supports school staff to help children and young people at an early stage as soon as additional needs are identified. The SEN toolkit links to other areas, teams and services that can provide further support, in addition to what schools would ordinarily provide.

Dates for your diary

- 19th October – **BESST conference on EAL** – [please click here for more information and booking details](#)
- 7th December – **Side by Side Conference: Ofsted** – Details to follow nearer the time
- End of Term December – **Head Teacher Performance Review submission deadline**
- 10th & 11th January – **Corporate Director Briefings for Headteachers, Chairs of Governors and Governance Professionals / Clerks** – Invitation to follow nearer the time