

GOVERNOR PRIORITIES

SPRING TERM AGENDA

2023

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[Bucks Association of School Governors \(bucksgovernors.org\)](http://bucksgovernors.org)

SPRING TERM 2023

The Aims of This Session

- You will be informed about national and local priorities, to help Governing Boards set their agenda items and tasks for the Spring Term.
- Signposting to resources and information will be provided.
- Governing boards will understand how to make the most of their NGA membership.
- Understand what topical issues Governing Boards are facing.
- We would emphasise that when setting your Boards agendas that this should be done in liaison with your Headteacher and Clerk (Governance Professional) by selecting the relevant items to allow for structure and sequence over the term or terms.
- Remember the current priorities and delegation arrangements for **YOUR** school.

KEY GOVERNANCE CHALLENGES

- **Wellbeing** – C:Tiredness–absence- mental health Covid (Staff Pupils, families, Governors)
- **Safeguarding** - Updated KSIE 2022- Governor Training, Peer on Peer abuse, pupil attendance, record keeping, safer recruitment
- **Governance** – Allocate individual Governor roles, associated training and review and update terms of reference as required
- **Governor visits**- return to in-person- check policy process and reporting
- **Staffing structure** – keep under review in the light of rising costs, PM etc
- **Budgets Strategic priorities** for 2022-3 and 2023/4- review in light of changing staff costs and inflation and plan any required remedial action.
- **New Staff Induction** - Governors- new Heads - new senior staff- other staff
- **Governance Professionals/Clerks and training plan**
- **Strategic Priorities** in line with ethos and vision and updating School improvement plans to include Catch up recovery, Pupil Premium, outcomes and impact
- **Staying strategic** - [NGA-ASCL-NAHT-Guide-to-Being-Strategic-\(Oct2020\).pdf](#)



**SPRING
TERM
2023**

Areas of Focus for all Buckinghamshire Schools

- **Safeguarding** - [NGA safeguarding guidance](#)
- **Prevent duty self-assessment tool for schools** - [Prevent duty self-assessment tool for schools - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- **SEND** – [SEN Support Toolkit | SchoolsWeb \(buckscc.gov.uk\)](#)
- **Disadvantaged** - [Widening the lens on disadvantage \(nga.org.uk\)](#)
- **Budgets** – Key dates for the submission of the SFVS 28.02.2023 and Provisional Financial Plan deadline of the 07.03.2023
- **Energy Efficiency** - [Energy efficiency: guidance for the school and further education college estate - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- **Wellbeing** - [BESST-Newsletter-Jan-23.pdf \(bucksgovernors.org\)](#)

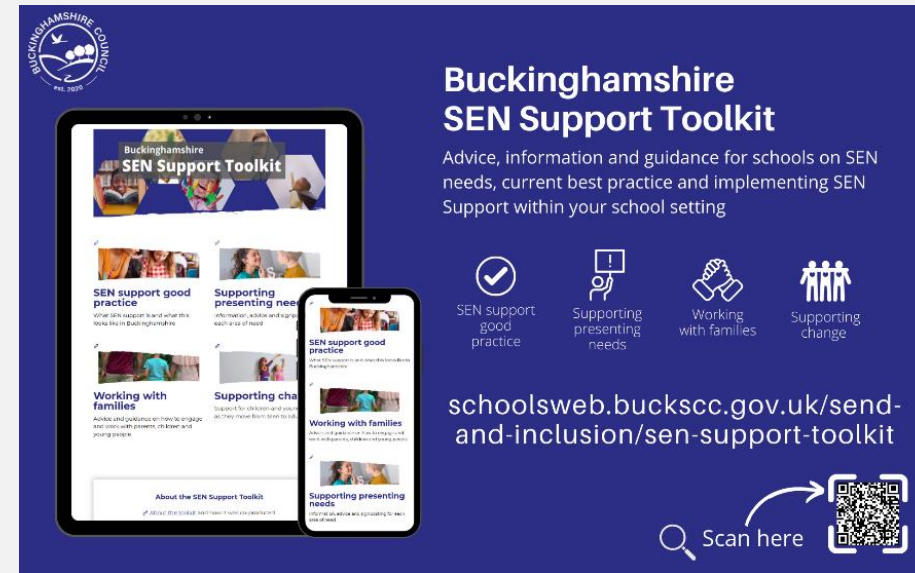
SEN SUPPORT TOOL KIT

The SEN Support Toolkit 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 graphic features the Buckinghamshire Council logo in the top left corner. It displays a tablet and a smartphone showing the toolkit's interface, which includes sections for 'SEN support good practice', 'Supporting presenting needs', 'Working with families', and 'Supporting change'. To the right, the text reads 'Buckinghamshire SEN Support Toolkit' followed by a description: 'Advice, information and guidance for schools on SEN needs, current best practice and implementing SEN Support within your school setting'. Below this are four icons representing the toolkit's focus areas: 'SEN support good practice', 'Supporting presenting needs', 'Working with families', and 'Supporting change'. At the bottom right, the URL 'schoolsweb.buckscc.gov.uk/send-and-inclusion/sen-support-toolkit' is provided, along with a QR code and the text 'Scan here'.

The toolkit links to other areas, teams and services that can provide further support, in addition to what schools would ordinarily provide.

<https://schoolsweb.buckscc.gov.uk/send-and-inclusion/sen-support-toolkit/>

DISADVANTAGED AND VULNERABLE

- MUST Review plans and impact for Pupil Premium on an ongoing basis and update plans as needed –
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pupil-premium/pupil-premium>
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pupil-premium-effective-use-and-accountability>

and EEF Guidance
https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Publications/Pupil_Premium_Guidance_iPDF.pdf
<https://d2tic4wvo1iusb.cloudfront.net/documents/guidanceForTeachers/EEF-Guide-to-the-Pupil-Premium-Autumn-2021.pdf>
- MUST Publish on web site
- Plan and Monitoring of PP must link to other recovery and catchup spending
- Review support being provided to vulnerable, through family liaison, mental health support, before and after clubs etc. and its impact – Fully document and discuss via HT report

Bucks Challenge Group – entering year 2 of the project and work taking place via your liaison groups

SPRING TERM 2023

Agree and Progress Process for Governance and Models for Meetings

Virtual or in person- Must be full Board decision

Beware Hybrid meetings – see <https://www.independentaudit.com/article/meetings/board-meetings-the-hazards-of-hybrids/>

Circle Monthly FGBs rather than separate committees

or

Committees Finance, Personnel, Health and Safety and Education and standards

Structure Must be agreed by whole Board

Finance - maintained schools - Review finance 6 times a year (SFVS) Final budget to LA by May 2023

Finance Academies – Financial oversight as required by Trust Scheme of Delegation

Specialist – Complaints, Exclusions, Redundancy, Conduct and Disciplinary as needed

Board and school issues- school governor visits (Safeguarding, SEND, Curriculum etc.)
working parties, performance reviews, Pay committee

EDUCATION AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

Education and School Improvement

- **AGREE** Strategic Priorities for 2022-3 and beyond and SIP planning cycle
- EEF – Moving Forwards, Making a Difference a Planning Guide for Schools 2022 -2023
[School Planning Guide 2022-23.pdf \(d2tic4wvo1iusb.cloudfront.net\)](#)
- **Monitor** SIP & Recovery progress in line with strategic priorities
 - Agree monitoring and governor protocols including
 - Curriculum leader reports and Governor Visits (Virtual) and ensure reports completed
 - Agree pupil performance data reporting - [Understanding your data: a guide for school governors and academy trustees - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
 - Train governors as required
- **Agree HT reporting** – template, content and format for each meeting
 - Safeguarding, Attendance, behaviour, disadvantaged, SEND, Recovery, Data, Finance
 - **Parent and Pupil Voice**- Parent Forum and surveys, Student/Pupil visits (Student council) and surveys
- **CHALLENGE** – make sure this is documented and informs updates to plans (SEF, SIP, PP, budget)

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

- School specific projects and initiatives that the governors keep under review
- Building projects
- School development projects
- Parent and community liaison - [Engaging with parents and carers - National Governance Association](#)
- Web site review- New DFE requirements – updated September 2022 [What maintained schools must publish online - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- GDPR – get an update from your Data Protection Officer
- Cybersecurity- new Guidance - [Cyber Security for Schools - NCSC.GOV.UK](#)
- Sustainability - NGA Guidance [Environmental sustainability: a whole school approach \(nga.org.uk\)](#)

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

- Agree review of external monitoring- LA consultancy reports/reviews etc. including BC Side by Side support – the role that Governing Boards play in Side by Side
- Review and update other policies according to your school's policy review schedule
- Review governance effectiveness, training needs and succession planning
- Update and Monitor governor development plans, clerking & Training (NGA, BESST, BEP & other providers)
- Recruit governors (Staff, parent, others) and arrange induction

HEAD TEACHER RECRUITMENT

- To ensure at least one member of the selection panel has safer recruitment training and for the panel to re-visit Keeping Children Safe in Education – Part 3, Safer Recruitment [Keeping children safe in education 2022 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)
- To remember to inform LA - school improvement (by emailing SIS@buckinghamshire.gov.uk) as early as possible of the schools intention to go out to recruit a new head teacher and give as much notice as possible of planned interview days
- To be aware that school improvement has a statutory right to attend interviews for maintained schools
- To ensure that any conflicts of interest for panel members are declared and managed as appropriate.

HEAD TEACHER RECRUITMENT

- That Buckinghamshire Council HR is able to offer support with placing adverts on our own jobs pages but also with other external websites and social media campaigns (chargeable)
- That if you are anticipating recruiting a new headteacher next year, then look out for the BESST training on Appointing an Executive Leader, which gives advice for the full recruitment process and can provide examples of selection tasks.
- As always, the NGA provides a useful tool kit and guidance [Recruiting a headteacher - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

KEY WEB SITES

NGA

<https://www.nga.org.uk/Home.aspx>

Sign up for weekly bulletin

Register via clerk to make sure you receive Governing Matters magazine, access Learning Link, free webinars

DFE

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-governance-update>

EEF

Regular research updates and SIP advice and newsletter

<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk>

LA Schoolsweb

<https://schoolsweb.buckscc.gov.uk/school-improvement-and-equalities/governor-support/>

Get login details from Clerk/chair Sign up for weekly bulletin

BASG

Collate advice and newsletter - sign up <http://www.bucksgovernors.org>

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