

SCHOOL GOVERNORS BRIEFING PAPER – SUMMER TERM 2019

This briefing paper is a summary of recent key developments and announcements which have implications for the governance of schools. Governors and Governing Boards are asked to consider any implications for the governance of their school.

This paper does not constitute definitive guidance or advice on whether any of these developments have an impact on the governance of your school or how to respond. Please seek advice from your Clerk if you need advice on any of the developments covered in this paper.

Dennis Harvey, Managing Director

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1. CLERKING AND APPEALS ASSOCIATES LIMITED – SUPPORTING CHARITY

Clerking and Appeals Associates Limited is proud to support Toilet Twinning, a water and sanitation charity initiative.

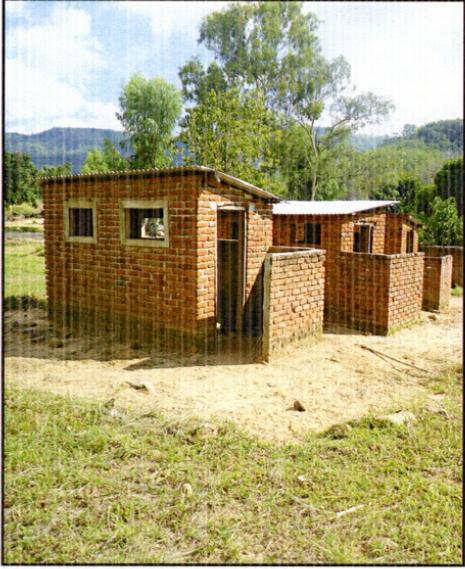
Toilet Twinning funds the work of international relief and development agency Tearfund, which uses donations to provide clean water, basic sanitation, and hygiene education.

The Directors of Clerking and Appeals Associates Limited have twinned their toilets with a school block at Chichanga, Rumphi District, Malawi.

This toilet has been


Twinned

with those used by Clerking and Appeals Associates Ltd Directors



with a school block at

Latitude: -10.57153 Longitude: 34.15128
Chichanga, Rumphi District, Malawi
Latrine No. 90424



**toilet
twinning.org**

1 in 3 people worldwide don't have a loo. By supporting Toilet Twinning you are helping to flush away poverty.
Tearfund is a Registered Charity Number 265464 (England and Wales) and Number SC037624 (Scotland).

www.toilettwinning.org

F/84459

For more information about the way Toilet Twinning transforms lives, please visit www.toilettwinning.org

There are a number of useful resources for schools to use to raise funds if you wish to support their work.

2. SAFEGUARDING

2.1 REVISED Guidance for Safer Working Practice for Adults who work with Children and Young People in Education 2019

The Safer Recruitment Consortium has provided some up to date, non-statutory guidance entitled 'Guidance for Safer Working Practice for Adults who work with Children and Young People in Education' that aims to provide a good starting point for understanding professional conduct towards children and young people.

This document supports the statutory guidance provided in Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2018) which includes the requirement for schools to have a staff code of conduct and that this should be explained to new staff at induction.

The revised, non-statutory guidance can be downloaded via the link below.

<https://www.safeguardingschools.co.uk/guidance-for-safer-working-practice-for-adults-who-work-with-children-and-young-people-in-education-2019/>

This could be a useful document to assist Governors, and particularly the Safeguarding link, to evaluate school practice.

2.2 Safeguarding in the New Ofsted Education Inspection Framework

The new Ofsted Education Inspection Framework (EIF) includes some changes relating specifically to the inspection of Safeguarding which will be inspected under the judgement area of Leadership and Management.

The new framework states that those with responsibility for governance should ensure that the school fulfils its statutory duties under the Equality Act 2010, in relation to the 'Prevent' strategy and Safeguarding, in order to promote the welfare of learners.

An overview of the main changes to the inspection of Safeguarding can be found via the link below:

<https://www.safeguardingschools.co.uk/new-ofsted-education-inspection-framework-for-september-2019/>

The report provides a useful overview and update for all Governors, particularly those linked to Safeguarding.

3. NEW OFSTED EDUCATION INSPECTION FRAMEWORK – MAY 2019

On 14th May, Ofsted published the new Education Inspection Framework for 2019. It applies to maintained schools and academies, non-association independent schools, further education and skills providers and early years settings.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/education-inspection-framework>

The main headline changes include:

- 1) Inspection timings have changed but the initial suggestion that Ofsted could arrive within 2.5 hours has been removed;
- 2) The Ofsted grades stay the same: outstanding, good, requires improvement or inadequate;
- 3) The judgement categories have been revised and will cover: Quality of Education, Behaviour and Attitudes, Personal Development and Leadership and Management;
- 4) Key themes include reducing workload for teachers, an emphasis on good character and resilience among pupils, tackling off-rolling, and a broad, well-balanced curriculum;
- 5) Ofsted inspectors will look to understand the purpose and usefulness of internal pupil data.

We recommend that Governors use the new Education Inspection Framework to assist the school in setting school development plan priorities.

4. THE EDUCATION ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION GUIDE TO BECOMING AN EVIDENCE INFORMED GOVERNOR AND TRUSTEE

The EEF have published a guide for Governors containing high-quality evidence to support and encourage informed discussions in your Governing Board about how your school can improve. This was produced to help provide easy to access, jargon-free information on what the evidence says can help to improve teaching and learning.

<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/tools/governors-guidance/>

5. SFVS TO BE REPLACED

The Department for Education (DfE) plans to replace the Schools Financial Value Standard (SFVS) from April 2019 with a new School Resource Management Self-Assessment Tool.

The DfE have recently published the first version of this tool, aimed at academies, and plans to publish a version for maintained schools in the new year. The tool is designed to help assure Governing Boards that they are meeting the standards to achieve a good level of financial health and resource management. It can be used to identify areas for change to make sure resources are used to support high-quality teaching and the best education outcomes for pupils.

The first version of this tool is available to view via the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-resource-management-self-assessment-tool>

This updated format is especially important for Governors who are Chairs or members of Finance/Resources Committees.

6. **STATISTICS AND ANALYSIS ON STATEMENTS OF SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (SEN) AND EDUCATION, HEALTH AND CARE (EHC) PLANS IN ENGLAND**

The DfE have published data providing information on the numbers of SEN and EHC plans recorded both nationally and by the Local Authority.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/statements-of-sen-and-ehc-plans-england-2019>

The data was published on the 30th May 2019 and provides an interesting overview of SEN figures and EHC plans across the country.

This could be a useful document for SEN Link Governors to be aware of in providing national and local context.

7. **GOVERNORS' TRAINING**

- Free Induction training for new Governors within Tower Hamlets will be held on Saturday 29th June, 9.30 a.m. - 2.00 p.m. at the Professional Development Centre, 229 Bethnal Green Road, E2 6AJ.

Contact governors@towerhamlets.gov.uk to reserve a place.

- The next Tower Hamlets Governors' Conference will be held in Autumn 2019. The team welcomes input from any governors who would like to be involved in the planning process. Contact Runa Basit for more information: runa.basit@towerhamlets.gov.uk
- Opportunities for Lambeth Governor training can be found via the link:

<http://www.lambethschoolservices.co.uk/Training?Id=66>

8. **SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT THROUGH SCHOOL-TO-SCHOOL SUPPORT**

The DfE have published a research document entitled *What works in delivering school improvement through school to school support*. The document, published 24th May 2019, looks at the effectiveness of partnerships and collaboration both formally and informally.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-improvement-through-school-to-school-support>

The document could help to support and inform any plans that your school may have in moving towards collaborative school improvement.

9. GOVERNANCE PLANNING 2019

Governing Boards, Trust Boards and Local Governing Bodies are encouraged to consider the use of a Governance Planner.

Planning your meeting in advance supports effective and meaningful Governance.

If you have not already adopted a Governance Planner please contact our Director Charmaine Strelitz, who will be happy to support you in developing one bespoke to your School or Trust.

Charmaine@clerkingandappeals.co.uk

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