**Our Vision for Education - Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good**



**JOINT BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Church School Governance Update - February 2021**

**Governance Coordinator Update**

**The Diocesan Education Team are very much aware of the enormous challenges that have been placed upon those responsible for the governance of our schools over the past year. Your work on supporting headteachers in navigating a way forward through so much turbulence continues to be exceptional and we extend our heartfelt thanks.**

**Diocesan Education Team re-structure** : Funding for our team has been significantly impacted by the financial ramifications of Covid 19 on churches and we have therefore had to re-structure. The specific role of Governance Co-Ordinator has been cut and, sadly, Sharon Taylor has now left our team. Sue Bowen, Richard Wharton and Rob Sanders’ role descriptors have been changed reflecting their additional focus as follows:

Sue will take the lead responsibility on matters relating to ex-Officio Governors.

Richard will take the lead on matters relating to Foundation Governors

Rob Sanders will take the lead on matters relating to Admissions and Appeals.

Sue.Bowen@portsmouth.anglican.org – 07825 509074

Richard.wharton@portsmouth.anglican.org – 07738 032962

Rob.sanders@portsmouth.anglican.org - 07393 765277

**Diocesan Database Update**

We have been undertaking a thorough review of our database in order to be sure that we have correct information to enable us to communicate effectively with you. Thank you to those of you who have already responded to our request for up-to-date information. It would be incredibly helpful if you could send us the name and email address of your Chair of Governors and Clerk as a significant number of our records are out of date in respect to these roles in particular. Please email this information to: sam.powell@portsmouth.anglican.org

In the course of this process, we have discovered that there are a number of people operating as foundation governors who have never actually been appointed by the diocese. While we are sure that these instances are simply the result of administrative misunderstanding, it does mean that their involvement in any governance decisions is completely illegitimate.

Please could we remind clerks and Chairs of Governors that the parish must nominate foundation governors using diocesan forms (attached for your reference) and that these must then be sent to the diocese for appointment. Please do contact Richard Wharton if you have any queries about this process.

**Admission Policies**

Thank you to everyone who has sent in their determined admission policy for 2022-23 or has shared their policy with us for consultation.

This is just a reminder that the 31st January was the deadline for consultations to end and your admission policy must be 'determined' by the 28th February. Your FGB minutes must state that the policy has been 'determined' by the full board. Once your policy has been determined, please ensure that you send a copy through to Rob Sanders and to your local authority. The policy then need to be displayed on your school website by the 15th March.

**SIAMS**

We are continuing to receive enquiries from governors about the likely timeframe for the resumption of SIAMS inspections. The requirement to have a section 48 inspection every five years remains disapplied and so SIAMS cannot restart until that disapplication is lifted by the DfE. This will most likely be when Ofsted restart inspections. However, the absolute earliest that this could happen would be the summer term. We appreciate that some schools were just about to be inspected as the original lockdown happened, while others have come into the inspection window as the impact of the pandemic has continued to unfold. However, at present, we do not have a clear view on how the ‘catch-up process’ will happen.

We have continued to deliver training on SIAMS for governors via Zoom and MS Teams and can tailor this to the present circumstances in which we find ourselves. If you have Hampshire Governor Services SLA, this can be booked through them as your annual training session or you can contact Sue or Richard directly.

**NGA's Outstanding Governance Awards 2021**

Nominations are now open for NGA’s [Outstanding Governance Awards 2021](https://www.nga.org.uk/About-Us/Celebrating-Governance/Outstanding-Governance-Awards.aspx). The awards are the only national education awards to recognise the contribution of governing boards, clerks and lead governance professionals.

They provide an opportunity to share the best practice in school and trust governance and demonstrate the positive contribution that good governance makes to the school system. Governing boards, clerks and lead governance professionals can self-nominate in one of six categories:

* Outstanding governance in a single school
* Outstanding governance in a multi academy trust
* Outstanding governance in a federation
* Outstanding clerk to a governing board
* Outstanding lead governance professional \*new for 2021\*
* Outstanding vision and strategy

Entries can be submitted until 9.00am on Monday 26 April. You can find the nomination forms and information sheets for each category on the [Outstanding Governance Awards](https://www.nga.org.uk/About-Us/Celebrating-Governance/Outstanding-Governance-Awards.aspx)  page.

**SchoolClerk UK**

You may be interested in adding a bookmark to this blog to your favourites:

<https://schoolclerk.co.uk/>. It is maintained by an independent governance consultant and contains regular news updates.

**RSE Policies**

Just a reminder that we need to receive draft RSE policies for review and advice prior to consultation – thank you to all the schools that have sent them in to date.

Please send policies to Rob Sanders: rob.sanders@portsmouth.anglican.org

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Thank you for reading the Church School Governance Update. You have been sent this as you are registered on our system as being a Foundation Governor, Headteacher, Clerk or Chair of Governors at a Church of England school or academy in the Diocese of Portsmouth or Diocese of Winchester.

If you are no longer a governor, then please let us know.

If you have any ideas for features and articles in future editions of the newsletter, then please do let us know.