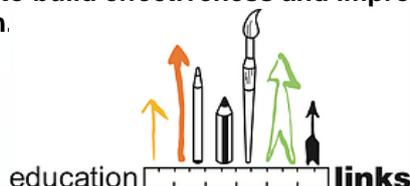


Welcome to our newsletter, where you will find the highlights of what has been happening for governors in Newham and what to look out for over the summer term.

**Summer 2018**

**This is the first article in a series from Chairs, writing about the work that the governing board and school leaders do to build effectiveness and improve outcomes for children.**



## An Alternative Provision

Dear Governors,

My name is Arfa Butt I'm the Chair of Governors at Education links, which is an alternative provision secondary school in Newham. The school converted from an existing independent school to Free School status in 2014. We have a proven track record of improving outcomes for children with behavioural, emotional and social issues. We offer individual timetables for each pupil and will enter them for whichever qualifications are most appropriate, be they GCSEs, BTECs, Functional Skills or other relevant awards.

I joined the governing board in December 2016, as a co-opted governor after attending a NPW SGOSS recruitment event and was appointed the Chair in September 2017. I was born and raised in Newham and understand the challenges our children are currently facing. I'm passionate about creating opportunities, supporting and working collaboratively to engage and elevate the next generation of young people in the borough. I've spent the past 20 years working in the music industry, so returning to a school, education, the curriculum and managing policies has been a great learning process.

I have some great mentors on the governing board who've been guiding me since I joined. I know there are some young people who find it easy to learn, come from educated families and have a support network so academia is the only way forward. Our young people are under so much pressure to perform and live up to such high expectations they often lose who they are. In the past year as a governor, I've met some very talented children who've never been challenged, supported or understood until they came to Education Links. I have the utmost respect for our team of dedicated staff, SLT and head teacher Sandy Davies who are responsible for the education, safety and wellbeing of our students and have changed their lives.

We have many young people at the school who've been encouraged and taught to care for themselves for the first time in their lives, they matter! It's really important for us as leaders to understand that there are other external contributing factors as to why children are underperforming in school. We fail children when we are unable to identify the support they need in the early years which become

serious issues at a later stage. My key objective is to ensure excellent outcomes for the children at our school. I am both pragmatic and optimistic about the challenges facing the staff and certain that working with key partners, our children can and will achieve their full potential.

We hosted our first mental health event in October 2017 for Mental Health Awareness Week which was a great success. Education Links have been invited to attend the Education Select Committee meeting at Westminster Palace. Susannah Lewis (Curriculum Manager and Head of English) represented the School and presented the excellent work we have been doing as an alternative provision establishment. Committee members were pleased and will be visiting the school in the near future.

### Some questions I think governors and trustees should consider:

- Are you investing enough in the CPD and wellbeing of our staff, so they're able to handle the pressures they are now faced with when working with young people?
- Are the staff at our schools equipped with the tools and resources to make their jobs manageable?
- Do we truly understand the pressures our young people are facing?
- Are we excluding children at a higher rate and have we given up on our young people because we've lost authority over them to guide them through their most disruptive years?

As accountable governors and trustees I propose we build relationships, partnerships and have honest conversations on issues regarding our young people; share best practice and not to be afraid to try alternative learning methods.

### Here are a few of the key issues that are on my agenda that I believe should also be on yours:

- Youth Violence
- Mental Health and Pastoral Care
- Life skills
- Lack of provision
- Newham Youth Independent Advisory Group (IAG)

I am currently the chair of the adult IAG and developing a youth advisory board for Newham. The aim is to encourage local young people to have their say on how local police can improve the quality of policing and to improve trust and reassurance within our community. The group will advise the Adult (IAG) and police on issues that affect young people and engage with other members of the local community.

If you, the staff or students at your school are interested in joining the adult or youth IAG please contact me at: [arfawb@gmail.com](mailto:arfawb@gmail.com)

**Arfa Butt - Chair of Governors, Education Links**

## Diary Dates Summer 2018

**Inclusion Link Governors' Forum**

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2018  
7pm – 9pm**

**Francis House**

**Safeguarding Link Governors' Forum**

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2018  
6:45pm (TBC)**

**Francis House**

**GOVERNORS' COURSES SUMMER TERM – SEE BACK PAGE**



# Curriculum Convention

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018, 17:30 – 20:00  
Calverton Primary School



We live in times of a great deal of change in education, above all in the curriculum, so it is important for governors to develop a broad understanding of developments in the curriculum, in order to be well equipped to make the most appropriate and best decisions for their schools and to be able to hold the school to account.

All governors and trustees are welcome to our annual Curriculum Convention. This is a great opportunity for you to:

- Become more informed about curriculum developments
- Find out about good practice in Newham's schools.
- Meet other governors and trustees

Book your place, please email: [edugov@npw.uk.com](mailto:edugov@npw.uk.com) or call us on 020 8249 6936



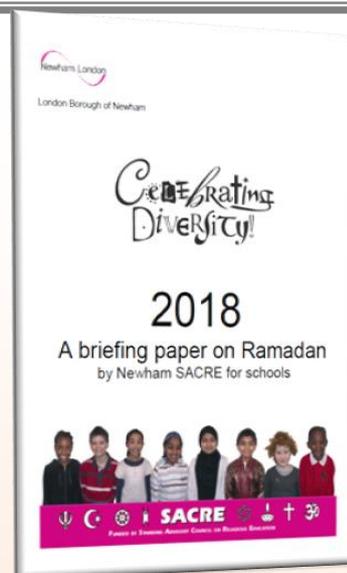
## A briefing paper on Ramadan

The LA and SACRE have recently reviewed and improved their guidance for schools around Ramadan and fasting for children and young people in schools. 'A briefing paper on Ramadan', has been sent to all head teachers and all RE leaders.

Claire Clinton, Newham's RE advisor says, 'I would encourage all schools to read our advice and review their policies and practice.'

You can access a copy of the briefing paper on the Managed Learning Environment (MLE) in the Governors Room under Religious Education.

For further information about this or other SACRE matters please do get in contact with [claire.clinton@rematters.co.uk](mailto:claire.clinton@rematters.co.uk)



## Message to Governors and Trustees of all schools

We offer support to schools and governing boards regardless of the governance options they choose. NPW are experienced providers of school solutions to all types of school.

### Our Lucky Draw Winners!



Every term, we randomly select a few governors from amongst those who have attended training. They win a copy of the latest Governors' Yearbook. This term, the following governors will receive a copy:

- **Carol Abraham** (St Edward's Catholic Primary)
- **Ilyas Natha** (Gilbert Colvin Primary)
- **Kasia Enahoro** (Boleyn Trust – LGB Monega Primary)
- **Shirley Peters** (St. Winefride's Catholic Primary)

**Well done!**

### Safer Recruitment Training

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2018

9am to 5pm

Francis House

Please contact Rosalind Sarwan to book a place

[Rosalind.Sarwan@npw.uk.com](mailto:Rosalind.Sarwan@npw.uk.com)

or

020 8249 6974

NPW will be holding a school governors and trustees recruitment event in partnership with Governors for Schools (Formerly SGOSS), which will provide an opportunity to match potential governor and trustee candidates to schools and fill vacancies on governing boards.

**The event will be held on Tuesday 8th May 2018, from 18:00 – 20:30**

Chairs and Headteachers are invited to attend and meet with prospective candidates to find suitable individuals for their governing board or trust board.

*If the Chair or the Headteacher are unable to attend, they may nominate another representative from their governing board to attend the event.*

The places are limited and would be allocated on a first come first served basis.

To book a place, please contact Irfan Mustafa on 020 8249 6932 or email him at [irfan.mustafa@npw.uk.com](mailto:irfan.mustafa@npw.uk.com)



### Annual Chairs' Workshop

Saturday 30th June 2018, from 09:30 to 13:00  
Francis House

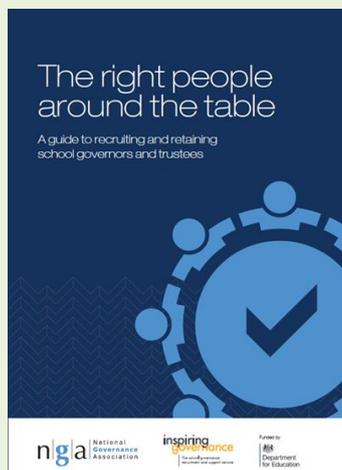
This practical workshop will be an opportunity for chairs, vice-chairs and aspiring chairs to explore a current theme and a chance to network with other chairs, vice-chairs and aspiring chairs from various schools.

If you are, or know of a chair, vice-chair or an aspiring chair on your board of governors, who would benefit from attending this workshop please pass on this invitation to them and encourage their attendance.

**Places on this workshop are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis – so please book early!**

### Do you have the right people around the table?

To support you in recruiting new governors and trustees, retaining existing ones and ensuring an element of effective governance, the National Governance Association (NGA) has updated and re-launched its publication, 'The right people around the table'.



Inside you will find:

- Practical and actions that you can take to evaluate your board, promote your vacancy and attract good candidates to the role
- model role descriptions and key questions for governing boards
- Practical advice suggestions of good practice in appointing candidates, providing induction training for new recruits and succession planning

**You can access a copy of this document on the MLE in the governor's room under NGA Publications.**

# GOVERNORS' COURSES SUMMER TERM 2018

## **Pupil Premium**

**Competency Framework Level 2c, 2d, 2f & 5a (STRATEGIC)**

This training workshop will provide governors with the knowledge and understanding of 'disadvantaged pupils' (Pupil Premium) to ensure they are able to support and challenge their school leadership team effectively. Governors will be clear on their role, and know what data is available and how it can be used to ask the right questions.

**Tutor:** Lee Webster

10am or 7pm **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May**

## **Self-evaluation: Setting the Strategic Direction**

**Competency Framework Level 1a & 2a (STRATEGIC)**

A key aspect of governors' strategic role is their involvement in the process of school development planning. This session will look at how school improvement is driven by self-evaluation and how this links to the school development plan.

**Tutor:** Deborah Strain & Hafise Nazif

10am or 7pm **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May**

## **Handling & Resolving Complaints**

**Competency Framework Level 5a (KNOWLEDGE)**

This session will give governors an overview of the new complaints guidance issued to schools and look at schools' complaints procedures. We will be discussing the role of the chair, vice-chair and of the governing board as well as looking at some common do's and don'ts.

**Tutor:** Geetha Unnithan

10am or 7pm **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> May**

## **Understanding Health & Safety in Schools**

**Competency Framework Level 2f & 5 (KNOWLEDGE)**

The governing board plays an important part in ensuring the overall health and safety of staff, pupils and visitors to the school. This session will challenge governors and trustees to consider the issues involved in fulfilling this important responsibility in the context of teaching, learning and maintaining a safe environment.

**Tutor:** Geetha Unnithan

10am or 7pm **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> May**

## **Introductory Course for New Governors**

**Competency Framework Level 3a & 4a**

This course is designed to give new governors the essential information they require to become effective governors. It is based on the national programme developed by the DfE and is built around the key roles that governors play in helping their schools to raise standards of achievement.

**Tutor:** NPW Tutor Team

9am to 3.00pm **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May & Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June**

## **SEND/Inclusion**

**Competency Framework Level 2f & 5a (KNOWLEDGE)**

This training session will cover an introduction to Special Educational Needs and Inclusion in schools, the Children and Families Act 2014, key factors that determine good SEN provision, statutory responsibilities of schools and governors for SEN/D, the OFSTED framework and focus on SEND and what good practice looks like.

**Tutors:** Lesley Hare & David Perry

10am or 7pm **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May**

## **Positive Behaviour Management**

**Competency Framework Level 2a, 2f & 5a (SKILL)**

This session will provide governors with a practical definition of 'Positive Behaviour Management', it will cover Attachment theory, the role of the Behaviour Support Service, what key interventions they recommend or support in school and the purpose of the Pastoral Support Plan.

**Tutor:** Louise O'Conner & Caroline Gordon

10am or 7pm **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May**

## **Grievance, Discipline and Sickness**

**Competency Framework Level 2e & 5a (KNOWLEDGE)**

The course will be covering the roles of governors in disciplinary, grievance and sickness hearings. We will look at the rules of natural justice, levels of disciplinary action, how to deal with grievance against staff and the headteacher. With regard to sickness absence we will be looking at what governors need to consider when thinking about dismissals. We will also look at employment tribunals.

**Tutor:** Tom Alexander

10am or 7pm **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June**

## **What's New in the EYFS?**

**Competency Framework Level 2a, 2c, 2f & 5a (KNOWLEDGE)**

In this session we will be looking at how schools are using baseline assessment information, the implications for schools of the 30 hour offer and what Ofsted inspections are looking for in early years as well as lessons to be learnt from recent inspections.

**Tutor:** TBC

10am or 7pm **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> June**

## **Statutory Responsibilities**

**Competency Framework Level 5a (KNOWLEDGE)**

Do you know what your statutory responsibilities are and how you carry them out? This course will look at the key statutory responsibilities of governing boards in maintained schools and academies. It will provide participants with practical information and tips and offer the opportunity to reflect on their own practice and share good practice with others.

**Tutor:** Jill Cameron

10am or 7pm **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> June**



## **Would you like to contribute to Governors' News?**

If you would like to share your experience of governance, an example of good practice in your governing board or anything else governance related, please contact Priscilla Bruce-Annan, Governor Development Coordinator [priscilla.bruce-annan@npw.uk.com](mailto:priscilla.bruce-annan@npw.uk.com) or on 020 8249 6931.

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[www.londonmle.net/newham/login](http://www.londonmle.net/newham/login)



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