

Governors' Essentials



Newsletter for Governors and Clerks

Issue 78

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INDEX	Item
<p>Item</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ofsted updates - Vision for a new Inspection Framework Department for Education's (DfE) guidance Department for Education (DfE) consultations HR updates - Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks for centrally employed Council staff visiting schools/Teachers' Pension Scheme 2016 Valuation Shillington Lower School and Stondon Lower School – proposed federation Templefield Lower School, Flitwick – proposed merger with Windmill Pre-School and change of age range 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> New School Places Programme – consultations launched for the proposed expansions of Vandyke Upper School and Gilbert Inglefield Academy, Leighton Buzzard Further update regarding the Education and Skills Funding Agency's (ESFA) Condition Data Collection Programme Preliminary consultation regarding proposed expansion of Edward Peake Church of England VC Middle School, Biggleswade Central Essentials Governors for Schools (formerly SGOSS) Inspiring Governance Governor training programme 2018/2019 – courses available in November and December
Item	Contact
<p>1. Ofsted updates</p> <p>Vision for a new Inspection Framework Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, Amanda Spielman, has announced details of proposed changes to the inspection framework from September 2019. In summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> proposal for 4 new inspection judgements schools will no longer receive a separate grade for outcomes for pupils focus will be on the substance of education and a broad curriculum more involvement for classroom teachers <p>A consultation on the draft framework will be launched in January.</p>	<p>Sally Dakin Commissioning and Partnerships Manager School Improvement/Children's Services Tel: 0300 300 6836 Email: Sally.Dakin@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk</p>

<p>2.</p>	<p>Department for Education’s (DfE) guidance The DfE has updated What maintained schools must publish online and What academies, free schools and colleges should publish online in order to make a slight amendment to the Special Educational Needs (SEN) and disability information.</p> <p>The SEN information report which schools are required to publish and update annually must now include ‘information as to the plan prepared by the governing body or proprietor under paragraph 3 of schedule 10 to the Equality Act 2010 (accessibility plan) for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increasing the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the school’s curriculum • improving the physical environment of the school for the purpose of increasing the extent to which disabled pupils are able to take advantage of education and benefits, facilities and services provided or offered by the school • improving the delivery to disabled pupils of information which is readily accessible to pupils who are not disabled 	
<p>3.</p>	<p>Department for Education (DfE) consultations To view all live consultations, please see the DfE’s website.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p>HR updates</p> <p>Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks for centrally employed Council staff visiting schools HR have recently received a number of queries from schools regarding the DBS clearances for CBC staff who visit our schools to work with staff and pupils.</p> <p>All CBC employees who are in regulated activity receive an enhanced DBS check by the Council and are issued with a photo ID providing their name and job title.</p> <p>This letter has been provided to schools which confirms that the pre-employment clearance processes undertaken by CBC for roles that require a DBS clearance as they meet the definition of regulated activity. Schools were advised to retain a copy of this letter with their Single Central Record (SCR).</p> <p>Schools were reminded that they should continue to ensure that Council Officers visiting their school sign in and out of the visitors’ book, log their attendance on any electronic media and provide evidence of their CBC ID badge upon arrival. CBC employees are not required to provide a copy of their DBS clearance or DBS number. All information relating to the DBS undertaken by the Council is retained on their CBC HR record.</p>	<p>Rachael King / Sarah Reed HR Policy Officers HR Policy & Implementation Tel: Rachael on 0300 300 4804 or Sarah on 0300 300 4338 Email: hrrserviceschools@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk</p>

	<p>Teachers' Pension Scheme 2016 Valuation</p> <p>On 6 September 2018, HM Treasury published draft directions to be used in the valuation of public service pension schemes. The Government Actuary's Department has now completed their calculations to provide indicative results of the 2016 valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) to the Department for Education (DfE), the key results are detailed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the change to the employer contribution rate will be 1 September 2019 (rather than 1 April 2019) due to the delay in this announcement • The current employer contribution rate of 16.48% will be increasing to an estimated employer contribution rate of 23.6%, for the period 1 September 2019 until 31 March 2023. • The biggest impact on the employer contribution rate is the change to the SCAPE discount rate that is used to assess the current cost of future benefit payments; the SCAPE rate will change from CPI + 2.8% to CPI + 2.4% from April 2019 • There will be funding from the DfE for the financial year 2019/20 to help maintained schools and academies meet the additional costs resulting from the scheme valuation, a consultation process will take place to determine final funding arrangements. Funding for 2020/21 onwards will be discussed as part of the next Spending Review round • The SCAPE discount rate sits outside the employer cost cap process that was introduced for the 2015 career average TPS as this is a financial assumption. The indicative result also shows that the cost cap has been breached due to the value of member benefits having fallen, this is due to assumptions about earnings (pay increases lower than expected) and reduction in life expectancy. Discussion will take place with the TPS Scheme Advisory Board to recommend changes to the scheme design for career average section members of the TPS to align member costs to the cost cap <p>More detailed guidance in relation to how this will affect schools will be provided as this becomes known, in order to support schools with budget planning.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Shillington Lower School and Stondon Lower School – proposed federation</p> <p>Shillington Lower School and Stondon Lower School are proposing to form a federation called "The Shillington and Stondon Federation".</p> <p>The two governing boards believe that in bringing these two similar schools together they will build on the strength of both and also that this is an exciting opportunity to create a sustainable educational model where each school can keep its own individual identity but benefit from sharing good practice and services to support their continued development and the raising of standards.</p>	<p>Sue Barrow Information Manager School Organisation, Admissions and Capital Planning Tel: 0300 300 5700 Email: sue.barrow@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk</p>

	<p>Information regarding the proposal and guidance for how to respond to the consultation is available here.</p> <p>The consultation runs until 4 November 2018.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Templefield Lower School, Flitwick – proposed merger with Windmill Pre-School and change of age range</p> <p>A joint preliminary consultation has been launched by the governing board of Templefield Lower School and the committee for Windmill Pre-School (which is based on the Templefield Lower School site) to gauge demand for a proposed merger of the two. This merger would require the school to lower its age range from 4-9 to 2-9 years.</p> <p>Details of the proposal can be found on the school’s website here.</p> <p>Responses to the consultation are required by 6 November 2018.</p> <p>Templefield Lower is a community school and a change of age range for a community school, which would be required to enable the school to admit the pre-school aged children, can be formally proposed and determined only by the local authority via a statutory process.</p> <p>On conclusion of the preliminary consultation, the school’s governing board and Preschool committee, therefore, will submit a joint request to the Council to consider its proposal, should it wish to proceed with the merger and change of age range.</p>	<p>Sue Barrow Information Manager School Organisation, Admissions and Capital Planning Tel: 0300 300 5700 Email: sue.barrow@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>New School Places Programme – consultations launched for the proposed expansions of Vandyke Upper School and Gilbert Inglefield Academy, Leighton Buzzard</p> <p>The governing boards of Vandyke Upper School and Gilbert Inglefield Academy have launched consultations regarding the proposed expansion of each academy, with effect from September 2020.</p> <p>Details regarding each consultation are available on the academies websites:</p> <p>Gilbert Inglefield Academy and Vandyke Upper School</p> <p>Both consultations will run for 5 weeks, with responses required by 15 November 2018.</p> <p>Subject to responses received and approval from the governing boards of each school, the Council’s Executive will be asked to consider and determine the proposals on 5 February 2019.</p>	<p>Sue Barrow Information Manager School Organisation, Admissions and Capital Planning Tel: 0300 300 5700 Email: sue.barrow@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk</p>

	<p>In addition, permission will be required from the Regional Schools' Commissioner for the proposed expansion of each academy.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>Further update regarding the Education and Skills Funding Agency's (ESFA) Condition Data Collection Programme A list of schools that are to be visited within the 6th tranche of this programme has now been released. It includes 6 schools within Central Bedfordshire:</p> <p>Aspley Guise Lower School John Donne Church of England Primary School Moggerhanger Primary School Robert Peel Primary School St Swithuns Church of England VC Primary School Woburn Lower School</p> <p>Visits during this tranche are due to take place between March 2019 and July 2019. The full list is available, along with information regarding the programme, which was launched in January 2017, on the GOV.UK website here.</p> <p>The programme involves a visit to every Government funded educational establishment providing nursery, primary and secondary phase education in England between January 2017 and autumn 2019 to collect building condition data, information about building management and compliance documentation, and other contextual information. This information will be used by the DfE and ESFA to help inform future condition funding allocations, and will also help them to understand more fully, the nature, use and management of the education estate.</p> <p>Prior to each visit, schools will be contacted by the organisation that will carry out the visit and asked to complete an online questionnaire.</p>	<p>Sue Barrow Information Manager School Organisation, Admissions and Capital Planning Tel: 0300 300 5700 Email: sue.barrow@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>Preliminary consultation regarding proposed expansion of Edward Peake Church of England VC Middle School, Biggleswade A preliminary consultation has been launched regarding a proposed expansion of Edward Peake Church of England VC Middle School by an additional 60 places in each year group.</p> <p>For the expansion of a maintained school, the DfE expects the local authority to consult interested parties in order to develop their proposal. This preliminary consultation gives the opportunity to all stakeholders to respond to the proposal.</p> <p>A drop-in event, which is open to all interested parties, is to be held at the school on Monday 5 November between 5.30 pm and 7.30 pm.</p>	<p>Sue Barrow Information Manager School Organisation, Admissions and Capital Planning Tel: 0300 300 5700 Email: sue.barrow@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk</p>

	<p>The consultation document and on-line response facility is available on the Council's website here.</p> <p>The consultation closes on 13 November 2018.</p>	
<p>10.</p>	<p>Central Essentials Central Essentials (CE) is the newsletter emailed to schools on a weekly basis. Some of the information included in CE is also repeated in Governors' Essentials. CE can be accessed on the Schools' Portal.</p>	
<p>11.</p>	<p>Governors for Schools (formerly SGOSS) Governors for Schools is a free, online governor recruitment service which has 'access to a wide talent pool of skilled volunteers from big name organisations'. The vacancy form allows schools to specify exactly the skill set required and Governors for Schools introduces schools to candidates matching those requirements.</p> <p>Governors for Schools brokers the relationship with potential governors on schools' behalf, saving schools valuable time and ensuring that volunteers are prepared for the role.</p>	
<p>12.</p>	<p>Inspiring Governance Inspiring Governance is a free, online service that connects schools and trusts in England with skilled volunteers.</p>	
<p>13.</p>	<p>Governor training programme 2018/2019 – courses available in November and December Please see the list of course dates for the new governor training programme and information regarding courses available in October 2018 can be found below:</p> <p>November</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GT119 – Promoting British Values through SMSC on 6 November 2018 at Central Bedfordshire Council's offices, Dunstable from 6.30 pm to 9.00 pm • GT106 – Exclusions (the governors' role) on 7 November 2018 at Central Bedfordshire Council's offices, Dunstable from 6.30 pm to 9.00 pm • GT98 – Finance for maintained schools on 8 November 2018 at Central Bedfordshire Council's offices, Dunstable from 6.30 pm to 9.00 pm • GT125 – Keeping children safe in education (the governors' role) on 14 November 2018 at Central Bedfordshire Council's offices, Dunstable from 6.30 pm to 9.00 pm • GT123 – Recruiting and appointing a new school leader on 21 November 2018 at Central Bedfordshire Council's offices, Chicksands from 6.30 pm to 9.00 pm 	<p>Joanna Brown Commissioning and Partnerships Officer School Improvement Tel: 0300 300 6598 Email: gov.training@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk</p>

- GT135 – Taking the Chair Session 3 (final of three sessions) on 22 November 2018 at Central Bedfordshire Council’s offices, Dunstable from 6.30 pm to 9.00 pm

December

- GT121 - Pupil Premium and other funding on 11 December 2018 at Central Bedfordshire Council’s offices, Dunstable from 6.30 pm to 9.00 pm

Course Cost:

Free to subscribing governing bodies

Ad hoc

Schools	Academies
£108 per session	£118 per session
£163 per half day session	£178 per half day session
£324 for a whole day course	£355 for a whole day course

To book a place/places, please contact Joanna Brown by emailing gov.training@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk.

On-line learning

For subscribing governing bodies, governors have access to a suite of **on-line learning** through Learning Link (which is provided by the National Governance Association). As it is e-learning, governors have the flexibility to complete the modules at a time that suites them and as progress can be saved, the courses can be completed in ‘bitesize chunks’.