



GST Newsletter

Issue 2 - July 2023

Introduction

Welcome to the final newsletter of the 2022-23 academic year. The Governor Support Team (GST) would like to take this opportunity to thank all governors for your continued support and commitment to the education of children and young people in Westmorland and Furness. This year seems to have gone far too quickly, but we hope governors can take a well-earned summer break.

If governors would like to refer back to any information in previous newsletters, please go to the **GST website**.

News/updates

Local Government Review – Safeguarding

On 1 April the Cumbria-wide Safeguarding Hub was replaced by the Cumberland Safeguarding Hub and Westmorland and Furness Safeguarding Hub.

If you are concerned about a child in Westmorland and Furness, you should contact the Westmorland and Furness Safeguarding Hub:

- Telephone Number - **0300 373 2724**
- Email Address – **safeguarding.hub@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk**



Local Authority Designated Officer – LADO

Cumbria LADO service continues to cover both local authority footprints - Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness.

If you have concerns regarding someone who works with a child, these should be reported to the LADO. This applies to all paid, unpaid, volunteers, casual, agency employees or anyone working in a self-employed capacity.

Information on LADO including how to contact and the referral form will still be accessed via the **Cumbria Safeguarding Children Partnership (CSCP) website**.

Cumbria Safeguarding Children Partnership

Cumbria is maintaining a single safeguarding children partnership which will cover both new local authorities.

Keeping Children safe in education

Coming into effect on 1 September 2023, the guidance outlines the legal obligations for schools and trusts to safeguard and promote pupil welfare, with limited changes from previous versions.

Notably, there is increased emphasis on the significance of filtering and monitoring IT systems. Governing boards are advised to align their child protection policy accordingly and update it annually to reflect the new guidance.

We advise that governors and trustees undergo annual training and stay informed about important updates throughout the year. To support this we encourage all governors and trustees to complete Safeguarding: how to fulfil the governance role - **NGA Learning Link module**. In addition, you may find the follow resources useful:

- **NGAs webinar: October 2022, The governance of safeguarding**
- **Safeguarding and school inspection: advice for governing boards.**

Ofsted Inspections

Ofsted inspection timings for schools, this blog post helps to clarify when schools can next expect their next inspection.

Changes made to school inspections, Ofsted has announced changes to improve aspects of its work with schools.

Changes to Ofsted's post-inspection arrangements and complaints handling: proposals 2023, consultation on proposed changes to Ofsted's post-inspection arrangements, including how Ofsted handle complaints about their work.

Sustainability leadership and climate action plans in education

Ahead of strategic planning for the next academic year, the Department for Education (DfE) have published basic guidance on sustainability leadership and climate action plans, which details the role governors and trustees can play in supporting environmental sustainability in education.

The National Education Nature Park and Climate Action Award scheme, led by the Natural History Museum partnership, will also be launched in the Autumn. The programme will provide opportunities for more outdoor learning for all children and young people.

In addition, the DfE has **announced** funding of £15 million to help young people in disadvantaged areas to learn outside and experience nature.

Visit National Governance Association's **greener governance campaign** to find out more about environmental sustainability.

School suspensions and permanent exclusions

DfE **guidance** on the suspension and permanent exclusion of pupils from Local Authority maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units, including pupil movement'. This guidance applies from 1 September 2023.

School exclusions: guide for parents

DfE have produced a **guide** to support parents and carers whose children attend a maintained school, pupil referral unit, academy school and alternative provision academy in England. This guidance applies from 1 September 2023.

School uniforms: guidance for schools

DfE have updated their **guidance** with the addition of a link to the Equality and Human Rights Commission guidance on 'Preventing hair discrimination in schools'.

Training

Training on Independent Review Panels for Permanent Exclusions

The Legal Services Department at Westmorland and Furness Council are offering a training course on Independent Review Panels for Permanent Exclusions. The training course is open to all school staff, local authority employees and panel members involved in independent review panels.

For schools signed up to the Legal Services SLA (Service Level Agreement) the training is free of charge. For those not signed up there is a fee of £50.00 per delegate (plus VAT is applicable).

Included in the training will be an overview of the exclusion process from Head Teacher exclusion through to the Independent Review Panel, including:

- Recent legal updates
- The exclusion process and appeals
- What information should be included in the exclusion papers
- How to present your case to a review panel
- Equality and SEN considerations
- IRP roles and the decision-making process

The training will be provided as follows:

Date: 13th of July 2023

Time: 9:30- 13:00

Via: Microsoft Teams

If you are interested in attending, please contact the Team at schoolappeals@cumbria.gov.uk.



School Complaints

It is important that governors know and understand their School Complaints policy and that policy, for LA maintained schools must be on the school's website, for academies, DfE recommend publishing on the school website. It is also vital that the procedure is reviewed regularly, DfE recommend annually.

The NGA has produced a webinar May 2023 – **Complaints management for governing boards**, which may be of interest to governors, clerks, governance professionals.

In addition, the following module is available via **NGA LL, How to: run an effective complaints review panel**.



Online Safety Training

A 90 minute virtual session is designed for professionals working with children and young people to familiarise themselves with the current online safety landscape, covering technologies and the behaviours that develop around them. The session will provide an overview of current trends and issues as well as outlining statutory obligations and signposting useful resources.

South West Grid for Learning is an award-winning, not-for-profit charity dedicated to empowering the safe and secure use of technology. It is one of the three partners making the UK Safer Internet Centre, working with schools, colleges, industry, local authorities and government departments.

Date and time of session: Wednesday 20 September 2023, 4.00pm – 5.30pm

Course Fee: All Schools: £30.00 School Governors: £15.00

Booking: Whilst our new SLA Online is under development, please book your places for this event (WAF SD 04) by email to the School Development Team at School.development@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk or call on 01228 221312.

Chairs/Clerks (Governance Professional)

School Contact details

GST would like to remind schools to continue updating GST with changes to chairs and clerks (governance professionals). Having up-to-date information will assist greatly in ensuring boards receive information and communications from GST.

GST Contact Details

The GST continues to offer advice, support, and guidance, specific to your boards needs and can be contacted as follows:

Jane Lees

Governor Support Assistant

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