



Diocese of Chichester Governance E-Bulletin : March 2022

Learning with meaning and purpose - to know God and shape the world

'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.' (*Romans 15:13*)



Dear colleagues,

As expected there has been much to achieve this term, all overshadowed, less by freedoms, more by the serious events in Ukraine. I know that as governors you will be supporting your school leadership with the many challenges of continuing Covid cases and the war taking place before our eyes. It is at times like these that the 'God of Hope' sustains us all.

It was all but two years ago that I was in a meeting when the first lockdown was announced.

Governors questioned how they would continue their work. One of them mentioned Zoom. Hitherto that was a function on some cameras! Today it has become a tool for virtual engagement for all of us.

This is how we can offer a travel free and late night avoiding, means of supporting and providing training for **all the governors** in **all** our schools. This edition of the e-bulletin outlines those sessions upcoming and other opportunities until the end of the summer term. Please encourage your board members to take full advantage.

Very soon I will be planning the programme for 2022/3. I intend to ask Chairs what training would be appreciated. Anyone can email me [Mike Simmonds](#) with their suggestions to put into the mix.

Here I'd like to highlight that on **5th July** I offer an opportunity to review and reflect as the year comes to an end and we prepare for what is ahead. I hope as many as possible will take the opportunity to give thanks to God and consider the way ahead. [Click here](#) and book for this 90-minute session.

Finally, as we prepare in this season of Lent to celebrate at Easter, a reminder that Jesus made clear that He "came to serve, not be served". This modelling of servant, sacrificial leadership surely inspires and motivates us all. Thank you for your participation.

Warmest regards,

Mike Simmonds
Governance Development

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Governance Training Programme

The programme of virtual development sessions for governors is now underway. All these can be booked through [Eventbrite](#). **Information about each course can be found following the link on the diocesan Eventbrite booking page to the relevant course.**

These are all new opportunities even where the title may sound familiar. Each one will be an opportunity to be inspired, informed, and supported in your role as a governor of a Church School. They will include the following:

Up Coming Governance Sessions

Next Week

Inaugural Meeting of Network for Chairs on 23rd March at 2.00pm (2 hours)



Chairs of Governors, please do all you can to attend the inaugural meeting of the Network of Chairs, join the Zoom call at 2pm and stay as long as you are able. Vice Chairs welcome as well.

There will be some input outlining both the purpose of the Network and sharing of relevant current information. However, this first session will be exploring how best the Diocese can support you and your governance board, so do come with your ideas. In future this will be at least a termly drop-in session. [Click here to Book](#)

Ofsted Might Call!

24th March at 4pm



You might react, ‘**might** call’!! Of course, sooner or later your school will experience an Ofsted Inspection. Being prepared is important. Knowing what to expect is helpful.

This session will seek to enable you and your governance board to understand both, and provide you with support to work towards the visit. It is expected that you will discover some wisdom, knowledge, and skills in this important area. [Click here to book](#)

For your diary

Safeguarding

5th May at 10 am or 5pm



All Schools should take safeguarding seriously. This course focuses on how Church of England school governors can be informed by a Christian understanding and all the statutory requirements. We must hold the needs of all children and especially the vulnerable in our thinking and practice.

This course, specifically for Foundation Governors (others very welcome), will provide a theological and practical understanding of why the Church takes safeguarding seriously and an overview of Keeping Children Safe in Education.



If you have attended school and/or Local Authority training, we strongly suggest you also attend this session to enable you to develop your understanding and commitment to how the Diocese and Church Schools are called to “*Defend the weak...uphold the cause of the poor and oppressed*” (Psalm 83.4)

Foundation Governors agree to attend Safeguarding training in the first year of their appointment. For that reason, we have designated a focus on this important area on **5th May 2022 at 10am or repeated at 5pm (90 mins) on Zoom**

[Click here to book](#)

For you in 2022

Please put these in your diary and book your place

<p>Headteachers and Chair of Governors Briefing 31st March at 4.30pm (one hour)</p> <p>The purpose of this briefing is to share information on a range of issues, but it is also a chance for us to come together as a family of Diocesan Schools. Whilst the content of the briefing will be wide, we will be particularly focussing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The White Paper for Education• OFSTED Update• SIAMs Update• Land and Buildings Update• Governance Training opportunities <p>Click to book here</p>	<p>In Person, In School 18th May at 5pm (one hour)</p> <p>School Visits, policy, practice, and monitoring for All Governors.</p> <p>Click here to book</p> <p>Repeated on 19th May at 10am</p> <p>Click here to book</p>
<p>Clerking A Church School Friday 29th April, 3pm (one hour)</p> <p>Commencing a termly network for Clerks – Governance Professionals. Intended to support and inform anyone clerking our Church Schools. This is essential and supplementary to the support they will receive elsewhere of a more generic nature. <i>Would chairs please do all they can to encourage their clerk to attend.</i> In future this will be a drop-in session.</p> <p>Click to book here</p>	<p>New to Church School Governance 26th May at 10am (90 minutes)</p> <p>For new governors or as a refresher on what it means to be a governor of a Church School. This focuses on how to be Called, Connected and Committed in line with the Church of England Vision for Education. When last run the feedback was that 100% of those who attended found it was excellent or good.</p> <p>Click here to book</p>
<p>Art of Best Questioning 11th May at 5pm (90 minutes)</p> <p>Consider how to develop the most effective questioning skills to provide challenge and enable best outcomes.</p> <p>Click here to book</p>	<p>Chair? Could This Be Me? 14th June at 6pm (90mins)</p> <p>Succession planning needs governors to be aware of the skills and responsibilities. An introduction should this become a reality for potential Chairs and Vice Chairs of governors and committees, including those wondering if they might be!</p> <p>Click here to book</p>

For further details or any questions about these courses please email mike.simmonds@chichester.anglican.org

Coming very soon



We are working on developing a page on the [Diocesan website](#) to assist with recruiting governors. Please email michelle.perry@chichester.anglican.org with your specific vacancies, the skills you have identified you need and an email address for potential governors who express an interest to be forwarded to.

A NEW Recruitment Pack providing guidance on how to approach recruitment for all categories of governors is at the design stage and will also soon be available to support you – watch this space. Meanwhile the process for nominating Foundation Governors is available on the website.

Have you watched or shown our recruitment video? [Click here to view](#)

NEW Nomination Forms

We have updated the forms for new and re-appointment of Foundation Governors. They are completed online using Adobe-Sign, a secure system for completion and electronically 'signing' the form. This will help all involved in the process and has already worked well for the first few appointment processes.

If you have a potential Foundation Governor to nominate, please email michelle.perry@chichester.anglican.org the name and email address of the person and links will be sent to each of those required to complete a form. We hope you find this to be really helpful and efficient.



Support Available

If you would find it useful to discuss any of the issues that affect governance, please do email or call our Governance Development Officer [Mike Simmonds](#).

Next edition of Governors e-bulletin is due week beginning 16th May due to the Easter holidays.