

Head Teachers' Bulletin – 9th June

Events this week (beginning 12th June)

School Improvement Capacity, SEF and SIP meetings – Tue 13th June 9.30-11am Pastoral Centre

DSL Network Meetings –Thu 15th June – 3.30-4.30pm on Teams

Events coming up

School Improvement Planning meeting (Heads' Forum) –Tue 27th June, 9.30-11am St Mary's High Green

Actions from this Bulletin

1. Please note the item carried over from last bulletin to let me know if there are any members of staff in your school who would consider serving as a governor for another school across our family.

New Updates (since last bulletin)

Heads' Meeting – School Improvement Capacity Categorisation

Next Tuesday we have our Heads' meeting for school improvement capacity categorisation. This involves all Heads of schools who are in the Trust and any Heads who would like to be involved in the process.

During the meeting, John, Fiona and I will give some update on school improvement activity and planning. There will then be an opportunity for you to discuss with colleagues your thinking with the school improvement capacity categorisation form. This is both to help you reflect and also to gather feedback for me on the process itself.

Following the meeting, Fiona, John and I will use the information you have shared to finalise school improvement priorities for the Trust, which we will then share at the meeting on 27th June.

DSL's Network Meeting

Our next DSLs network meeting is on Thus 15th June on Teams. Those who have said they can attend will receive a link.

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At the meeting we will look at the changes to KCSIE which were published this week. The changes this year mainly reflect new guidance on filtering and monitoring of internet content being accessed by pupils in school. This discussion will feed into review of the Trust policy which will come out to you before the end of term. As last year, there will be sections that need to be personalised to school.

Also at the meeting we will be sharing the CPOMs categories currently being used across our schools with a view to agreeing some common categories and definitions, to help us to be able to more meaningfully share data and understand the picture across our schools.

Finally, we will be confirming dates for pilot of our Trust peer safeguarding reviews which some schools are going to try this half term.

Safeguarding Audit (Wiley Bissett)

Sticking with the theme of safeguarding, our internal auditors (Wiley Bissett) will be carrying out an audit of our safeguarding processes and controls across the Trust. This will lead to a report for our Audit, Risk and Assurance committee and is a recommended piece of work for a newly established Trust. Their audit work will happen during the week beginning 11th July.

This audit will involve fieldwork at three schools, which will be chosen at random by the auditor. In practice this is likely to involve a discussion between the auditor and the DSL and other key staff (e.g. the person responsible for maintaining the Single Central Record). They will also want to review policies and procedure documents.

The purpose of this is to look at the current overall picture for the management and governance of safeguarding across the Trust and it will lead to recommendations to ensure compliance.

The work in school should be minimal and it is not the school which is being audited, rather the systems across the Trust as a whole. It will give us another useful perspective on what we are doing well and where we should focus our energy in developing.

I have attached a copy of the plan from Wiley Bissett so that you can see what will be involved and I will be in touch with schools randomly selected once that has been done by the auditors.

Items from previous bulletins for reference

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Staff interested in serving on another school's governing body/LAC

I would be grateful if you would ask staff in your school if any of them are interested in being a governor at another school in our family or more widely in the Diocese.

We do have colleagues in our schools who are already part of governing bodies on other schools and their knowledge and service makes a massive difference. I know directly from some of those colleagues how it is also strengthening their understanding of governance and giving them a wider picture which really helps them professionally, particularly when considering leadership roles. For many of those colleagues, it was someone in their school asking them that was the prompt to put themselves forward to be a governor.

To be clear for schools in the Trust, while you cannot be a governor of a school in which you work under the scheme of delegation (and NGA guidance), you can serve as a governor in a different school even if it is in the trust.

I would therefore be grateful if you can promote this with staff in your school and let me know if anyone is interested in exploring this further.