

GOVERNANCE NEWSLETTER FROM THE DIOCESE OF EXETER EDUCATION TEAM

Dear Colleagues,

Wishing you all a very happy new year and a very big thank you for all that you have done to support schools throughout a very difficult 2020. While the new year has an offer of hope with the vaccine rollout, it has no doubt had a very difficult start with another national lockdown and staff already overwhelmed. Our role is to offer continuing support in these challenging times.

Thank you for such a positive engagement with our Continuing Professional Development and services during the Autumn Term, many of which we offer free of charge. As we move into 2021, we want to continue to support you by ensuring that our core training and development will be fully accessible, remaining online as our main method of delivery.

We are aware of the pressure on governance and the difficulties in recruiting new members at all levels of governance. We are re-launching our 'Be a Governor!' campaign in the spring and hope to attract volunteers to serve on our Governance Boards.

Jesus said, "do not be afraid little flock" (Luke 12.32). With everything that is happening in the world just now Jesus supports and cares for all his children. Thank you for all the work you are doing during this lockdown. We look forward to a time when schools can function fully again.

Kind regards,

Christina Mabin

Diocesan Education Adviser – Governance,
School Admissions and School Organisation

School Admissions: Please ensure that you have tabled your admission arrangements for 2022-23 as an agenda item at your late January / early February Full Governing Board / Directors meeting to determine the proposed arrangements. This needs to be done by 28th February and a copy published on your website by 15th March. Please forward a copy of the arrangements to the Diocese and the LA.

Training and network opportunities can be found in our training [programme](#) for Spring 2021:

Upcoming events are as follows:

- Diocesan Clerk's Forum: Wednesday 27th January 2021, 09:30 – 11.00
- Diocesan Governance Forum: Wednesday 27th January 2021, 16:00 – 17:00 with guest speaker Sharon Warmington from the National Black Governors Network Ltd who will talk about Diversity on Governance Boards.
- Governor/Director Refresher training for those who have been re-appointed: Tuesday 2nd February 2021 10:00 – 12:00
- Governor/Director new induction training: 2 part training on Wednesdays 2nd and 9th March 2021, 17:00 – 18:30.
- Diocesan Governance Forum: Tuesday 23rd March 2021, 16:00 – 17:00

Please contact educationevents@exeter.anglican.org for further details and bookings

Devon Association of Governance (DAG) has a Chair's forum on **Monday 8th February 2021 at 6pm**. The forum will focus on Governance in 2021 – Remaining Resilient. Chairs need to register in advance via dagclerk@gmail.com.

Best practice Guidance for Schools complaints procedures: New guidance has been published for [maintained schools](#). There is separate guidance on setting up a complaints procedure for [academies](#) and [independent schools](#).

Service Level Agreement: New agreements for 2021 have now started and will run for the complete calendar year. If your school hasn't yet subscribed there is still time. If you would like to find out more, please click [here](#).

Foundation Governor and Foundation Director appointment and re-appointment forms: Please see our website for the latest version of these [forms](#) which should be completed by all new applicants as well as those wishing to serve a second term as a Governor / Director.

Email addresses: All communications should be sent to governance@exeter.anglican.org for VA maintained schools and federations, or to EDEN@exeter.anglican.org for Academies. These mailboxes are monitored by the team and by sending your queries to these mailboxes we can ensure there is no delay to your request. There is a secure email account with Egress which can be used with both accounts.

Dates of EDEN Committee meetings: Academies who want EDEN to consider Foundation Director appointments and re-appointments need to have filed the forms with the Diocese seven days in advance of these meetings at which the applications are considered. Meetings have been scheduled for 11th February, 24th March, 21st April, 5th May, 9th June and 14th July 2021.

Changes to your Governing Board: Please keep us informed of any appointments and resignations to your Governing Board as they occur so that we can update our database. If it is preferable, Clerks to Devon LA schools can send us a copy of the 'form H' they use to notify Babcock LDP. Please see our website for our Privacy Notice.

