

# Ealing COVID-19 Governance update – autumn no 1

## Friday 4 September 2020

### COVID guidance and updates for September opening

Current COVID information is available on the [COVID EGfL](#) page and include the following key documents:

- [Welcome back: a letter from Judith Finlay](#) - this includes information on Ealing borough advice, information and advice from PHE
- [Welcome back: letter to schools from Julie Lewis](#)
- [September opening overview](#) - Ealing PowerPoint slides updated 1 September (all new information in blue)
- [Summary of DfE guidance for schools opening.](#)

Further information on attendance, staffing transport, SEND and vulnerable pupils can also be found on the COVID EGfL page.

### Governing board meetings and visits

There has been no change to the [DfE governance update](#) (17 July2020) i.e. Whilst social distancing rules remain, boards should continue to adopt alternative arrangements for holding GB meetings. In the July DfE update they also said that their guidance does not prevent governors/trustees visiting a school. We recommend that schools will need to consider how they will protect the health and safety of any visitors (this includes governors) alongside staff and pupils in line with DfE /Ealing guidance. As part of the school's risk assessment there should be strategies in place for managing visitors to the site and ensuring physical distancing and hygiene is explained to visitors on or before arrival. If governor/trustee visits can happen outside of school hours, they should. A record should be kept of all visitors.

### Parent governor elections during COVID

For the autumn term 2020, Ealing advice continues to be that where a governing board (GB) have a parent governor vacancy or parent governor term of office coming to an end, that they either hold a vacancy or use elected governors whose terms have expired in an associate and/or advisory capacity. If a GB chooses to extend the term of office for an elected governor it should only be for an interim period e.g. until the end of the autumn term, with a possible date for elections going forward, even if this is provisional and subject to change. Only where it is considered absolutely necessary should a GB carry out a parent governor election and only after completing a thorough risk assessment, following the interim amendments as advised by Ealing's head of elections - see [governor elections during COVID](#) for more information.

### Performance management

The DfE is clear that performance management requirements remain in force. However, it states that it expects schools 'to use their discretion and take pragmatic steps, to adapt performance management and appraisal arrangements to take account of the current circumstances.' Schools, governing boards and trusts are therefore encouraged to respond flexibly and pragmatically, given that the performance management objectives of teachers and leaders are likely to have been impacted by the government's COVID-19 emergency measures, including school closures. Indeed, it is likely to be the case that the vast majority of objectives set for teachers and leaders will be adversely affected by the inability of teachers and leaders to work towards their objectives during a

substantial part of the performance management cycle. You can find out more about [Headteacher Performance Management](#) at our online training session on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October, 6-7.30pm.

## Ealing governance training 2020/21

Full details and booking are now on <https://governors.ealingcpd.org.uk/cpd/default.asp> with a summary of training in our [ELP governance development programme 2020/21](#) guidance on EGFL. The training programme for this half term includes the following (all online):

- NEW After Covid 19 – the recovery curriculum - Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September
- NEW Disadvantaged pupils - returning to school post COVID. Governor online briefing session - Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September
- New governor induction / refresher (two-part training) Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September (part 1) and Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020 (part 2)
- Headteacher performance– review and setting objectives post COVID 19 - Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October
- NEW Keeping up with Safeguarding. KCSIE changes from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020 for governors - Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2020
- NEW Post COVID Measuring Effective Governance (Self-Evaluation as part of school recovery - Tuesday 13 October 2020

Don't forget if you complete four sessions, you will be eligible for an [ELP governance certificate](#)!

## Governance briefings

The sessions, open to all, will cover the new and revised relevant COVID guidance issued since the end of last term and other important changes. We hope to also include time for your questions. If you can send any questions to us in advance, then we can try to make sure we cover it as part of the briefing/s. Please make sure to sign up via CPD online [www.ealingcpd.org.uk](http://www.ealingcpd.org.uk). Once registered, you will receive the MS Teams online link for the session/s.

- Chairs' and lead governors briefing – Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020 6-7pm  
[https://schools.ealingcpd.org.uk/courses/bookings/c\\_detail.asp?cid=17302](https://schools.ealingcpd.org.uk/courses/bookings/c_detail.asp?cid=17302)
- Clerks' network briefing, Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2020 4-5.30pm  
[https://schools.ealingcpd.org.uk/courses/bookings/c\\_detail.asp?cid=17307](https://schools.ealingcpd.org.uk/courses/bookings/c_detail.asp?cid=17307)

We will also be adding an additional chairs' and lead governors briefing session on 15<sup>th</sup> October (time TBA) which will be open to all.

FYI All briefing PowerPoints/resources are [posted on EGfL](#) after the sessions.

Best wishes and stay safe.

Therese and Michelle

Ealing School Governance Service

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