

Ealing Support for Governance during Covid -19

Updated 20th April 2020

Holding virtual meetings – summary of governance support available

- [Ealing's Covid guidance](#) (270320) includes useful information on holding **virtual meetings** and [Sample GB agenda](#) (030420) provides a useful checkpoint of what to cover in your first meeting including an addendum to your Safeguarding policies as a result of Covid 19
- [Croydon governor services](#) have issued useful guidance on governance considerations for the rest of the summer term and some do's and don'ts on holding virtual meetings
- **NGA** have produced [guidance](#) and a [free webinar](#) on business continuity and holding virtual meetings
- **Governors for Schools** [webinar on using Microsoft Teams](#) to hold governing board meetings online and deliver remote learning for pupils ([Microsoft Teams is free](#) for schools to join).

GovernorHub

GovernorHub have offered a **FREE trial for all Ealing Schools until September** to support with the business of governance during Covid 19.

[GovernorHub](#) is an online tool that provides you with the tools to securely manage your governor membership details, calendar dates for meetings, upload, save and share governor documents/ meeting papers and creates easy ways for you to communicate with your board members/ with each other. They are also developing an integrated video meeting tool as part of the GovernorHub platform to run video conferencing meetings. For more information on GovernorHub including their help page and how this could support you during this time [click here](#)

What next?

All clerks will be sent a login and password to access GovernorHub. Once clerks have registered, they can set up other members of their GB.

Book on virtual webinar training and information sessions will be run on the following dates:

- Wednesday 22 April, 11-12pm
- Thursday 23 April, 6-7pm

The training run by GovernorHub will be aimed at clerks understanding of how to upload GB membership details on GovernorHub, set up folders, share meeting documents with governors and easily communicate however, any governor can access using the link above. We will share the webinars after the training sessions. If you would like to book onto this training please email governors@ealing.gov.uk stating your preference and we will send you joining instructions.

The Key for school leaders and school governors

The Key have kindly agreed that for any school whose membership expired on 31st March 2020, that they will extend it for the period of Covid 19 to ensure continued support.

National Governance Association (NGA)

During the Covid 19 pandemic **NGA** are providing their **GOLD Line advice service free of charge** to all schools gold@nga.org.uk or tel: 0121 237 3782. NGA have also kindly agreed that for any school whose membership expired on 31st March 2020 as part of the Ealing group membership, that they will extend it for the period of Covid 19 to ensure continued support.

If you are unsure if you have membership via Ealing for The Key or NGA or would like to join for 2020/21 please contact governors@ealing.gov.uk for more information

Training and resources for governors

During the Covid 19 pandemic we want to respond directly to the needs of governors and clerks. As you may be aware all training/briefings at EEC have been cancelled until after May half term (to be reviewed in the summer term). This may be the perfect time to catch up on your virtual governance learning! So below we have put together a compendium of some of the wealth of resources and training available online – mainly for free. We are now in the process of reviewing what training and briefings/networks we can deliver using remote technology. Please let us know what you would value training or support on via e mail governors@ealing.gov.uk

What ALL governors should know

If you haven't done this in the recent past all governors should have looked at the following

- DfE [Keeping children safe in education](#) read part one and two - the important duties of governing boards are set out in part 2. As a result of Covid 19 and schools operating in a fundamentally different way please also read the [DfE Safeguarding guidance during Covid 19](#)
- DfE [Governance handbook](#) read sections one to four

New governors

- Ealing's [welcome to new governors](#) - induction Power Point will give an overview of the role for all new governors with a quiz at the end
- New governor induction checklist in the [Ealing governor toolkit](#).
- Ealing [Information pack for new governors](#)
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New chairs

- Ealing's [Welcome to new chairs' briefing](#) introductory PowerPoint on the key roles and responsibilities of chairs of school governing boards
- [Ealing chairs of governor's information pack](#) for all new (and existing) chairs.

All chairs

- Ealing [Chairs' briefings](#) – information from past sessions

Clerks

- [Ealing information](#) for new and existing clerks
- Ealing [Clerks' briefings](#) – information from past sessions

Online learning

Governors for Schools [Free E-learning](#)

- Short course: special educational needs and disabilities for governors
- Multi-academy trusts
- Employability and work-related learning
- Driving school improvement
- Governor induction
- Performance data for new governors
- Finance for new governors

[Governors for Schools webinars](#) - Live - School governance during the coronavirus pandemic
Strategic HR, 9 June 2020, 12:30pm – 1:30pm [Sign up](#)

Previous webinars

For a full list please go [Governors for Schools webinars](#). A summary selection is listed below.

- [Using Microsoft Teams](#) to hold governing board meetings online and deliver remote learning for pupils
- **Personal development** in the new **Ofsted** framework [Download](#)
- **Behaviour and attitudes** in the new **Ofsted** framework [Download](#)
- Effective **safeguarding** in 2019 [Download](#)
- **Safer Recruitment** [Download](#)

- What governors need to know about **teaching, learning and assessment** [Download](#)
- **Monitoring** the Quality of Education [Download](#)
- **Performance data** in 2019 [Download](#)
- **Effective questioning** and challenge [Download](#)
- **Self-evaluation** of governance [Download](#)
- **Inclusion** and the role of the governor: recruitment and retention of staff, curriculum and parental engagement [Download](#)
- What governors need to know about **disadvantaged children** [Download](#)
- ISBL webinar – principles of effective **financial governance** [Download](#)
- **Schools and Reputation Management** [Download](#)
- **Headteacher recruitment** [Download](#)
- The Governors’ Role in **Headteacher Appraisal** [Download](#)
- **Handling concerns and complaints** [Download](#)
- **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)** [Download](#)

Better Governor webinars (Surrey Governor Services)

Our colleagues at Better Governor have offered a **month’s free subscription (21 April – 22 May)** to include the below live webinars and their catalogue of previous webinars. To access, please register your details/school at www.bettergovernor.co.uk If you have any questions or queries, please email: sam.williams@strictlyeducation4s.co.uk

Live Webinar	Date	Time
Safe School Environment	22 nd April	19:00
Panels & Hearings	23 rd April	19:00
Clerks’ Briefing	27 th April	12:00
Ofsted – Two terms of the new framework	27 th April	19:00
Clerks’ – Minutes and Agendas	28 th April	12:00
Governance during the Coronavirus	30 th April	19.00
Hot Topics	4 th May	19:00
Chairs’ Forum	5 th May	09.00
Understanding EYFS	6 th May	12.00
Safeguarding during COVID-19	7 th May	12.00
Introduction to Governance	11 th May	19.00
Effective Pupil Premium	12 th May	12.00
Personal Development	13 th May	12.00
Clerks’ Forum	14 th May	19.00
Behaviour & Attitudes	18 th May	19.00
Effective Parental Engagement	19 th May	12.00
New to Clerking	20 th May	12.00
Safeguarding against Radicalisation	21 st May	12.00

NGA Learning link – online training

NGA making a free trial available for their e-learning platform, Learning Link. There are five modules available on the free trial covering the governance role, Ofsted, working together as a team, succession planning and arts and cultural education. [Click here](#) to register for your free trial account today. If your school already has access to Learning Link you can continue to login and learn as normal [here](#). If you would like to purchase, then via Ealing it will only cost £82 per governing board. See Gatekeeping information or contact governors@ealing.gov.uk for more details.

The Key – online training

In addition to their [online support and information](#) site (see above) The Key also have a range of online training materials for purchase. These include their [Safeguarding Training Centre](#) and [CPD Toolkit](#). For more details on pricing please see Gatekeeping information or contact Ricky Fernandez, ricky.fernandez@thekeysupport.com for more information