

Training and Development Governor Update: 01/09/20

We agreed a training and development plan for 2019/20. (I haven't attached a copy as I thought it was more important to focus on the year ahead but can if it would be helpful.)

4 governors attended a total of 4 different training and development events during the year. These included an Ofsted Briefing, an information event about an Accredited Mental Health and Well-Being Governor e-module, Schools Financial Value Statement, Governance Forums and Safer Recruitment (online). In addition, during lockdown, Janet and Trisha also took part in various RoSIS and NGA zoom events and attended webinars run by Alan Richards, one of the JMAT Directors.

I have updated the training records for 2019/20 and will send these to individual governors and Kerry.

2020/21

Effective governance requires a board with a range of skills, together with a diversity of experience, backgrounds, characteristics and perspectives. These skills, experiences and knowledge enable governors to ask the right questions and have discussions which create robust accountability for school leaders.

We are building a new governing board as experienced governors have left and new governors join. It is therefore important that we quickly build a picture of our collective knowledge, skills and behaviours by completing a skills audit. The National Governors Association (NGA) has a model skills audit which we can use. It has recently been updated and is shorter than before.

Completing the audit will help us identify our strengths across the board, where there are gaps and our own individual training needs. We can then agree ways to improve our capacity and effectiveness whether by ongoing development and support or recruitment. No one governor is expected to have all the required skills: what is important is that we have a good mix of skills and experience and the willingness to undertake training and development.

There is a wealth of training available online and free on the National Governors Association (NGA) Learning Link. Rotherham School Improvement Service is also planning to run some courses via zoom.

On a personal note, I have just started an NGA Leading Governance programme for Chairs and Vice-Chairs which requires me to have a 360 degree appraisal.

I would like us all to take responsibility for our own training and development, to reflect on what we have learned, to share what we learn with each other and to put it into practice. Developing our knowledge, skills and behaviour will help us deliver our role as governors effectively and to make a positive difference to the children of Meadow View.

Patricia White
Training and Development Governor/Chair