



**GOVERNORS
FOR SCHOOLS**

Governance during Covid-19

2nd April 2020



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Aims of today's session:

- to clarify that governance continues during the current pandemic;
- to ensure an understanding of key, relevant government advice;
- to secure governors and trustees confidence in holding schools to account during the coming months.

A whole new world!



Key Government advice/measures

 

Coronavirus (COVID-19): what you need to do

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Correspondence
School governance update March 2020
Updated 25 March 2020

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You will undoubtedly be following closely the government's response to the current imperative to protect the public from the spread of COVID-19. This update reiterates the key messages and guidance published by the department in the last week, especially around school closures, and seeks to provide some clarity on specific issues that will be at the forefront of governors' minds. Department officials are monitoring the situation closely and will provide further information as necessary.

1. Key guidance



Key Government advice/measures

- Parents to keep children at home, wherever possible.
- Schools to remain open *only* for those children who absolutely need to attend.
- Self-isolation, household isolation, shielding and social distancing
- The department advises *against* governing bodies meeting in person.
- DfE expect governors to focus on urgent, time-bound decisions

Schools remaining open:

- For children with an Education & Health Care Plan (EHCP)
- For children of key workers
- For sufficient staff to ensure the safety and well being of the children
- For ensuring learning continues

.....so governance must
continue

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Governance – what do we need to do?

Ensure by seeking assurance:

- Children/young people are safe;
- Staff are safe
- Learning continues
- Health and well-being support for vulnerable people
- Key governance tasks are completed

Governance Tasks – what needs doing?

- Schools Financial Value Standard submission
- Budget approval and submission
- Budget Forecast Outturn Return (Academies)
- Three-year forecast submission (Academies)
- Recruitment for September 2020

Poll # 1

Governance – how?

Alternatives to face-to-face meetings:

- E-mail
- By phone
- Chair's Action
- Virtual meetings
 - Webinar platforms
 - Microsoft Teams[®]
 - Skype etc

Pros and cons

E-mail

- Low cost
- Familiar
- Evidence trail

- lengthy
- Time-consuming
- Irritation factor

Dial -in

- Immediate
- Quick decisions

- Expensive
- Hard to control
- Challenge to minute

Virtual Meeting

- Immediate
- Low-cost
- Easier to minute
- Easy to chair

- Tech-challenge
-

Chair's Actions

Where.... chair is of the opinion that a delay in exercising the function would be likely to be seriously detrimental to the interests of pupils, staff and parents

- Emergency-only
- Reasonableness test
- Reported back asap

Poll # 2

What chairs should do during this crisis

- Keep in touch with the Headteacher
- Demonstrate *duty of care*
- Communicate with governors
- Communicate with the clerk

Any questions



What you need to know, when you need to know it



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