



Making Nottinghamshire
Schools Better



Nottinghamshire County Council



Making Nottinghamshire
Schools Better

Governors' Newsletter – Autumn term (2) 2025

Governor Services contact details:

T: 0115 8044666 E: governors@nottscc.gov.uk

Your termly national and local updates from Governor Services

Dear Governors,

Welcome to the second Autumn 2025 newsletter! The first half term of the academic year has been incredibly busy for both schools and governing boards, as it always is. From welcoming new cohorts of pupils and staff to setting strategic priorities for the year ahead, there has been much to consider and plan for. I want to extend my sincere gratitude to each of you for your continued commitment and the invaluable support you provide to our school communities.

This half term's newsletter is packed with important updates and useful information to support you in your role. I would particularly like to draw your attention to the articles focusing on the safeguarding audit, school finance, the quick guide to complaints and the complaints toolkit and information about the new Ofsted inspection framework. These are key areas where governors play a vital role in ensuring schools remain compliant, effective and focused on delivering the best outcomes for all pupils.

Looking ahead, I'm pleased to share that the annual Governor Conference will take place on Friday 6 March 2026 at Eastwood Hall. This year's theme is "Shaping Inclusive Education Together", and the event promises to be both informative and inspiring. We are delighted to welcome speakers from Ofsted and Local Authority teams, who will share insights and updates relevant to all governors. Our guest speaker brings a wealth of experience in inclusive governance and will offer valuable perspectives on how we can all contribute to more inclusive practices in our schools. The conference is also a fantastic opportunity to network with fellow governors, share good practice and reflect on how we can continue to strengthen governance. Further details and booking information will be available soon on GovernorHub.

Thank you once again for the time, energy and expertise you bring to your role. Your dedication as volunteers is deeply appreciated and your impact is felt across every aspect of school life. I hope you find this edition of the newsletter both informative and supportive as you continue your vital work.

Sinéad Allan, Team Manager Governor Services

ACTIONS FOR GOVERNORS:

- [Admissions Update](#)
- [Safeguarding in Education](#)
- [Children Missing Education](#)
- [Finance Update](#)
- [Ofsted Inspection Framework](#)
- [Ofsted & School Governance](#)
- [Moderation, Monitoring & Assessment](#)

INFORMATION AND UPDATES

- [EM-Ed Governor Training](#)
- [2026 Governor Conference](#)
- [Effective Governance Resources](#)
- [Academies & Trusts Update](#)
- [National Updates](#)
- [Message from the Chair of NAGs](#)

Plus, lots more!

Admissions Update

2027-2028 admission arrangements

The council, as the admission authority, is consulting on school admission arrangements for all community and voluntary controlled schools in Nottinghamshire for 2027-2028. The period of consultation is 6 October 2025 to 23 November 2025. **ACTION: All governors should ensure they review the consultation** and share widely with parents and communities – it is important that all consultees have an opportunity to comment if they wish to do so. A summary of key changes, the full proposed admission arrangements for 2027-2028 and the online response form are available at: [School admissions consultation 2027 to 2028 | Nottinghamshire County Council](#)

Own admission authority schools must consult with all relevant parties if there are any proposed changes to admission arrangements. Consultations must be held for a minimum of 6 weeks between 1 October 2025 and 31 January 2026 in line with the School Admissions Code 2021, 1.45-1.48. If no changes are made to admission arrangements, they must be consulted on at least every 7 years. Any schools carrying out a consultation must share information with the local authority as part of the statutory consultation process – full details should be sent to admissionsconsultations@nottscc.gov.uk with links to the consultation, the period the consultation is open and information where comments can be made.

Please remember it is the responsibility of admission authorities to ensure that admission arrangements are compliant with the School Admissions Code 2021 and to consult effectively. Where a school is the admission authority (such as VA schools and academies), this responsibility falls to the governing body or academy trust.

Key transfer – September 2026

Primary to secondary transfer (year 7)

The national closing date is 31 October 2025 for secondary applications. Governors should ensure they have planned time to consider (rank) the applications against admission oversubscription criteria. The application information will be shared with all own admission authority schools **by Wednesday 26 November 2025** and all rankings of applications must be completed by **Wednesday 14 January 2026** at the very latest.

Admission to reception and infant to junior transfer

Applications for reception and year 3 for September 2026 can be made from **Monday 3 November 2025**. **Governors should ensure** that the admission arrangements for 2026-2027 are available on the school website. **Please can governors ensure** the school promotes the application process in any newsletter to encourage parents to apply on-time and list 4 preferences on their application. Parents should also be advised to carefully consider the admission oversubscription criteria for each of the schools they prefer. The closing date for applications is **Thursday 15 January 2026**

Keeping Children Safe in Education



Nottinghamshire Annual Safeguarding Audit

The annual safeguarding audit was sent out to schools on 15th October 2025. This has been redesigned to make it more intuitive and useful. This year, the audit will be completed by the DSL and the safeguarding link governor on an Excel spreadsheet with the following features:

- Separate sheets for each section - Leadership, Policy, Training, Online Safety, Environment, Welfare, Record Keeping, Safer Recruitment, Staff Behaviour, Allegations
- Each section contains a set of criteria, broken down into individual statements.
- Schools will tick off each statement, provide their response and evidence, and indicate whether the criteria are fully met, partly met, or not met.

- For any criteria not met, schools will assign a staff member, set a timescale, and a review date.
- The spreadsheet will automatically generate an action plan, showing outstanding actions and responsibilities.

This approach is intended to improve usability and reduce administrative burden. Please note, this format is **for this year only**. From next year, the audit will move to an online platform where schools will have login details for the DSL and safeguarding governor to complete. An email will be sent out to all schools, as well as ensuring the audit can be downloaded from the Em-Ed ([Safeguarding Children in Education | EmEd](#)), the NSCP site and is here on [GovernorHub](#).

ACTION - Schools will be given the remainder of the Autumn Term to complete the audit, with a request for all audits to be submitted back to the LA by **week beginning Monday 5th January**.

Schools Safeguarding Inbox - Operation Encompass and General Best Practice

Schools are being encouraged to set up a generic safeguarding email inbox. It's crucial that professionals and partners can confidently share information without the need to second guess contact details of colleagues in schools. Governors, please check with your Headteacher that this has been actioned, as per the advice given to the DSL. For example - safeguarding@schoolname.sch.uk

A generic safeguarding email inbox can ensure:

- **Continuity** - There is no need for schools to update contact lists with the local authority, police or other partners.
- **Security** - Access can be managed and monitored internally via permissions.
- **Assurances** - Schools can be large settings, and a shared inbox ensures that no notification or email is missed.
- **Coverage** - Most settings have more than one member of staff dealing with safeguarding related notifications and emails. A shared inbox would allow all relevant staff to see the same message without forwarding emails.

Although this is not mandatory, it is strongly recommended that schools put this in place as part of the safeguarding reviews.

Schools and GP information sharing – bridging the gap

In response to learning from several Local Practice Reviews, a new pathway has been developed to support information sharing between education settings and Primary Care (GP practices) where there is a safeguarding concern or a need for support. The pathway and form have been co-developed with input from schools and GPs to ensure it is workable and proportionate.

This pathway aims to strengthen joined up working and ensure that safeguarding concerns are not missed due to fragmented information. Schools are encouraged to use the Information Sharing Form (ISF) appropriately and follow the guidance provided. Please check with your Headteacher that this is in place.

Zain Iqbal, Safeguarding Children in Education Officer, T: 07824 482429 E: zain.iqbal@nottsccl.gov.uk

Children Missing Education (CME)

The guidance from the DfE is now statutory, meaning schools, Trusts and LAs must follow it unless there is good reason not to. Schools and governing boards are expected to:

- On a day-to-day basis, monitor pupils' attendance through their daily attendance register and work to address poor or irregular attendance in order to prevent children becoming CME.

- Take action without delay where there is a concern that a child's safety or well-being is at risk. If school staff have safeguarding concerns about a child, they should take immediate action and follow their child protection policy and involve their designated safeguarding lead.
- Carefully follow guidance on removing or adding pupils' names from, or to, the admission register, which in some specific cases will involve joint actions to be undertaken between the school and local authority before this decision can be made.

Governors need to ensure that the above is in place. Further information can be found here: [Summary of responsibilities for children missing education](#)

Private Fostering



Do you have any privately fostered children in your school that are not known to social care?

A privately fostered child is a child under 16 years of age (or 18 if they have a disability) who is cared for by an adult who is not a close relative for 28 days or more and has been arranged without the involvement of the local authority.

Governors might wish to ask if the school is aware of any private fostering arrangements.

If the school are aware of someone who might be privately fostered, the DSL should make a MASH referral on 0300 500 8090 so that the local authority can investigate.

Finance Update

The LA Scheme for Financing & School Finance

Governors should be aware of both of the above documents (which can be found here on [GovernorHub](#)), with the Finance Policy being approved annually. Both documents detail the financial responsibilities of school staff and governors. Both documents were updated in 2024 with no revisions in 2025.

Re-forecasting

At this time of year, schools will be re-forecasting their budget. Budget plans and staffing reports should be submitted to school Finance **by 30th November 2025**.

The governing board need to confirm the following when reviewing the school budget reforecast:

- Does the budget reforecast show a significantly larger (or smaller) revenue surplus than predicted at budget setting? Is there a clearly explained reason as to what has caused this?
- Are there significant variances under individual consistent financial reporting (CFR) categories between the ratified budget and reforecast – can they be explained?
- Does the budget plan include priorities from the SIP where there is a financial implication?
- Has a 3-year planning exercise been undertaken including pupil number changes? What are the implications for the school, based on future years' predictions?

Whilst this is not an exhaustive list, it provides some opening questions for governors.

Rachel Livesey
Finance Business Partner

Key changes to the new Ofsted Inspection Framework 2025

Routine Ofsted inspections resume from 10 November 2025 and, up to 1st Dec 2025, Ofsted will prioritise those schools who have volunteered for inspection.

All inspections will be graded (except monitoring).

- Covers 8 areas: Safeguarding, Inclusion, Curriculum & Teaching, Achievement, Attendance & Behaviour, Personal Development & Wellbeing, Leadership & Governance, Early Years/Sixth Form (if applicable).
- Each area graded on a 5-point scale: Exceptional, Strong Standard, Expected Standard, Needs Attention, Urgent Improvement. Safeguarding is judged separately as Met or Not Met.

School Inspection Toolkit - [School inspection: toolkit, operating guide and information - GOV.UK](#)

- Provides criteria and evidence expectations for each grade.
- Based on existing statutory/non-statutory guidance.

Monitoring Inspections

- Triggered if any area is graded Urgent Improvement,
- or Safeguarding is Not Met.

Categories of concern:

- Special Measures: if Leadership & Governance is also Urgent Improvement.
- Requires Significant Improvement: if not.
- Also triggered if any area is graded Needs Attention.

Curriculum deep dives removed to reduce middle leader workload.

- Focus shifts to school context and improvement priorities.

Wellbeing & Support Enhancements

- Inspections can be paused for staff wellbeing.
- Inspectors receive mental health training.
- First day ends by 5pm; extra inspector added for capacity.

Ofsted: Explore an Area – new service launching Nov 2025 - Allows comparison of school performance within local context.

Further information

- [Ofsted inspection framework updated for 2025 | GovernorHub](#) free via GovernorHub Knowledge
- [NGA Comments on New Ofsted Framework | National Governance Association](#)
- NGA announced that their e-learning Learning link and Knowledge Centre content will be updated ahead of November 2025.
- Governors for Schools - Ofsted webinar October 2025 [Understanding the renewed approach to education inspection: what governors and trustees need to know - Governors for Schools](#)

Ofsted's official YouTube Channel has webinars on different topics, including the recent webinars on the changes to the inspection framework [Ofstednews - YouTube](#)

All governors - please access the **Ofsted Inspections Resources** on the Nottinghamshire Governor Services GovernorHub page. These resources include **the Ofsted inspection toolkit, the slides from a presentation** (by His Majesty's Chief Inspector Martyn Oliver and Tracy Fielding, Senior His Majesty's Inspector), **links to Ofsted briefings for governors**, plus **types of questions** that an inspector may ask.
<https://app.governorhub.com/s/nottsqs/resources/64da3ed5ff970d53dd34e018>

Ofsted Inspections and School Governance

In gathering evidence about governance, inspectors will consider the extent to which governors/trustees:

- Are knowledgeable about their statutory duties and carry them out effectively
- Support and challenge the school's leaders effectively, using the best methods to assure themselves of the quality and impact of different aspects of the school's work
- Understand their role as the responsible body, where applicable, in considering and addressing leaders' workload and well-being
- Assure themselves that leaders have an accurate understanding of the school's context and are prioritising the actions for improvement that will have the greatest impact on pupils
- Ensure that systems for monitoring and quality assurance are fair, valid and constructive, and provide leaders and staff with high-quality feedback to inform continuous improvement
- Hold leaders to account appropriately and effectively for the impact of the school's professional learning programme for staff
- Hold leaders to account appropriately and effectively for the school's support and provision for disadvantaged pupils, those with SEND, those who are known (or previously known) to children's social care, and those who may face other barriers to their learning and/or wellbeing.

'Expected standard' for governance

- Governors/trustees ensure that the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school are clearly defined, take account of context, and make sure that resources, including digital technologies, are used effectively. They typically support and challenge leaders appropriately, giving due regard to leaders' and staff well-being and workload.
- Leaders ensure that staff and governors feel valued and involved in the strategic direction of the school. Leaders provide meaningful opportunities for them to share perspectives and insights and collaborate throughout any change process.
- Leaders and governors develop constructive relationships with all parents and with the wider community, to build trust. They draw on these relationships to support pupils to achieve and feel that they belong.

'Strong standard' for governance

'Expected standard' has been met, plus:

- Governors/trustees use their knowledge and expertise to provide consistent support and robust challenge to leaders across all aspects of the school's work.

'Needs attention standard' for governance

The 'expected standard' has not been met and:

- Governors/trustees understand their broad roles and responsibilities but do not typically support and/or challenge leaders well. Their approaches to assuring themselves of the impact of leaders' work do not give them a precise picture of it.

Each grade will have a narrative, explaining how the grade was reached.

See the full range of grading criteria, [School inspection: toolkit, operating guide and information - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-inspection-toolkit-operating-guide-and-information)

Moderation, Monitoring and Assessment

Schools are continually preparing pupils for statutory assessments across different key stages. These assessments provide valuable insights into pupils' progress and help ensure they receive the support they need to succeed. By staying informed and engaged, governors play an important role in ensuring that assessments are conducted effectively while supporting both pupils and staff.

The LA has a duty to make unannounced visits to 10% of schools in order to check that they are following the security arrangements and administering the Phonics Screening Check (PSC) and Key Stage 2 tests in accordance with all published guidance and storing of test papers securely.

- Governors are encouraged to find out how their school arranges for pupils to undertake the tests, especially for pupils with special needs (SEND). They may also choose to find out what happens for pupils who are not taking the tests and how they are assessed.

Early Years Foundation Stage - At the end of the EYFS, in the summer term when a child turns five, it is a statutory requirement for all children to be assessed against the EYFS Profile. This profile summarises and describes children's attainment and includes:

- Their achievement in relation to the 17 Early Learning Goals (ELGs) using a best-fit model.
- A short narrative describing their characteristics of effective learning.

Key Stage 1 - There is no formal moderation for KS1 and schools may choose to undertake the optional KS1 assessments.

Phonics Screening Check - The PSC is administered in Year 1, with children who do not meet the expected standard reassessed in Year 2. The PSC monitoring visits are held in June each year. During these visits children are heard reading aloud a list of words to their member of staff. Schools can compare their pupils' results with the national figures.

Multiplication Tables Check - The MTC is an online assessment for Year 4 pupils, taking place in a two weeks' window in June. This check measures students' ability to fluently recall multiplication tables up to 12, through 25 timed questions.

Key Stage 2 - The Standards Assessment Tests (SATs) are held in May each year for English (grammar, punctuation, spelling, and reading) and maths. Schools can compare the number of pupils, as a whole number and as a percentage, with results from previous years and against national figures.

Key Stage 2 Writing - Writing is assessed through teacher assessment. The writing data is submitted and collated with the SATs results for each pupil to provide an overall assessment outcome. The LA has a duty to provide external moderation every four years for 25% of schools.

- Governors are encouraged to find out how their school prepares their pupils for assessment in writing. Governors should enquire about the internal and external assessment systems which are followed by the staff to prepare for teacher assessment and, if their school is in the moderation window, the visit by the LA moderator in June.
- Governors may wish to ask questions about CPD offered to teachers to prepare them for the summer term monitoring and moderation.
- Your role as a governor is to hold the school leadership to account for pupil outcomes. Governors should not be involved in how the school prepares pupils for SATs, as that is an operational matter and not strategic.

If you have any further queries, please contact Bryony Charnock-Walmsley.

bryony.charnock-walmsley@nottsccl.gov.uk

East Midlands Education Support (EM-Ed) Service – Governor Training Update

Strengthening School Governance: EM-Ed Support Services for Governors

Governors play a crucial role in shaping the strategic direction of schools and ensuring the best outcomes for children. To support this vital work, the **East Midlands Education Support Service (EM-Ed)** offers a suite of services designed to empower governors with the knowledge, confidence, and tools they need to lead effectively.

The services we provide include:

- **Governor Learning and Development** - scheduled and on-demand training covering key governance areas such as HR, SEND, complaints, finance, and Ofsted preparation.

Training is delivered via:

- Live online sessions
- Pre-recorded modules for flexible access
- NGA Learning Link e-learning modules, enabling flexible, self-paced development.

[Governor Learning and Development | The East Midlands Education Support Service](#)

- **Headteacher Appraisal** - ensure your headteacher appraisal process is robust, professional, and supportive with our one-day external adviser service, delivered by highly experienced and fully trained professionals.

This service ensures governors are well-equipped to lead a fair, developmental and impactful appraisal process that supports headteacher wellbeing and drives school improvement.

[Headteacher Appraisal | The East Midlands Education Support Service](#)

- **Headteacher Recruitment** - appointing a headteacher is one of the most significant decisions a governing body will make. The right leader can transform a school—bringing vision, stability, and excellence to every aspect of its work.

EM-EdSupport offers a comprehensive recruitment support package which can be purchased to guide governors through every stage of the process. From supporting governors with writing the advert and agreeing the contents of application packs, to shortlisting, interviewing and providing feedback to candidates—our experienced professional advisers will guide governors every step of the way.

[Headteacher Recruitment Overview | The East Midlands Education Support Service](#)

For further information about our service please contact liz.kitts@nottscs.gov.uk

2026 Governors' Conference

Join us for the 2026 Governors' Conference

Shaping Inclusive Education Together

Thursday 6th March 2026

Eastwood Hall

Governors play a vital role in shaping the future of education—and the 2026 conference is designed to inspire, inform and empower you in that mission.

With keynote contributions from **Mike Sheridan**, Ofsted's Regional Director, and **Sharon Warmington**, a leading voice in inclusive governance, the day offers a rich programme of strategic insight, practical guidance and celebration of your impact.

Highlights include:

- Updates on the **Education, Learning and Inclusion Strategy**
- **Ofsted's evolving priorities**
- Exploring the **governor's role in exclusions and inclusion**

- Sessions on **relational approaches in schools** and **governor wellbeing**
- Networking opportunities and the Nottinghamshire Association of Governors **Governance Awards** to celebrate your achievements

Whether you're new to governance or a seasoned leader, this is your opportunity to connect, reflect and lead with confidence.

Reserve your place now and be part of the conversation that's shaping the future of education.

[Governor Conference 2026 | The East Midlands Education Support Service](#)

Schools that subscribe to the Governor Learning and Development Package have 2 free places at the event. Schools that don't subscribe, the cost is £135 per delegate for maintained schools, £165 for academies/out of Nottinghamshire LA.

NEW – A Quick Guide to Complaints and The Governor Services' Complaints Toolkit

Governor Services are pleased to announce the launch of our new **Complaints Toolkit - Quick Guide**. [GovernorHub](#). The increase in school complaints is a local and national trend and headteachers and governors are advised to access this key resource to support them in their preparation for navigating any school complaints effectively and confidently within the required procedures.

This new guide is a quick and easy-to-read overview, and a great refresh of the complaints process, roles and responsibilities, overview of the 2025 model complaints policy (that boards are encouraged to adopt in full) and the resources in the complaints toolkit. These resources are all free for all schools who have purchased Governor Services Advice and Guidance.

Please remember that governors need to remain independent and should not be aware of the details of any complaints, as they may need to undertake an investigation regarding the headteacher or be part of a governor complaints panel at a later point in the process. Training for governors and staff should be a priority for the board to ensure compliance.

Effective Governance Resources

The DfE has provided new documents to support maintained school governing bodies, academy trust boards, leaders and governance professionals (clerks) in developing sustainable and effective governance.

- [Working with governance professionals \(clerks\): resources](#)
- [Governing strategically in your school or academy trust: resources](#)
- [Producing effective board reports for strong governance: resources](#)
- [Creating an effective and agile governance structure: resources](#)
- [Recruiting governors and academy trustees: resources](#)

Each document provides:

- principles of good practice
- practical resources that boards, leaders and governance professionals (clerks) can use to support sustainable and effective governance

This differs from the [maintained schools governance guide](#) and [academy trust governance guide](#), which focus on compliance and regulatory responsibilities. [Effective governance resources - GOV.UK](#) Published 24 September 2025

Academies and Trusts

Academy Trustees and Members – now required to verify identity for Companies House

Individuals who are part of the Trust board and academy Members will be required to verify their identity for Companies House. This new requirement comes into force from 18 November 2025. Individuals will receive a number, known as a Companies House personal code. The Trust will need to quote the personal code number for each of their directors when submitting the annual confirmation statement and for all new Director appointments from 18 November. This is free of charge, please see [Verifying your identity for Companies House - GOV.UK](#)

DFE Academies planning calendar 2025 to 2026 - Updated Sept 2025 - required actions for academies and trusts [Academies planning calendar 2025 to 2026 - GOV.UK](#)

Cyber Security - update

We are all aware of the recent Kido Nursery hack, where the details and photographs of 8,000 children were stolen and posted online. The suspects are two 17-year-olds from Hertfordshire. Research by the Information Commissioner's Office (2025) found that 57% of insider cyber incidents were caused by pupils or students. This highlights how schools need to protect data from external attackers, whilst recognising and taking action to address that students themselves may be the offenders.

Free webinar - Online Safety Webinar and Toolkit for Schools: Tuesday 25th Nov, 4pm

The London Grid for Learning has developed a new [Parent Online Safety Toolkit for Schools](#). It has been designed to help empower parents to keep their children safe. It includes a ready-to-use presentation for staff to deliver to parents and is free to all schools to download at <https://parentonlinesafety.lgfl.net/>. This course is suitable for DSLs, SLT, governors and anyone with responsibility for online safety in schools and community settings. Sign up here: <https://lgfl.bookinglive.com/book/add/p/222>

National Updates

Data protection: privacy notice model documents

The DfE has updated its suggested privacy notices for schools and local authorities to issue to staff, parents and pupils about the collection of data. The information can be found here: [Data protection: privacy notice model documents - GOV.UK](#)

PE and sport premium for primary schools

The DfE has published how much PE and sport premium funding schools will receive for the academic year 2025 to 2026, and guidance on how to spend it. Schools now get 50% of their funding allocation in the first payment and 50% in the second payment. Allocations for academic year 2025 to 2026 and the terms and conditions that local authorities, maintained schools and academies must follow can be found here: [PE and sport premium for primary schools - GOV.UK](#)

DfE publishes national behaviour report

72% of school leaders rated pupil behaviour as 'very good' or 'good' in the past week, compared to just 46% of teachers, according to the Department for Education's (DfE) latest [annual survey on behaviour in schools](#). Nearly a quarter of pupils (24%) reported being bullied at some point in the past 12 months. Among those who were bullied online, 39% said it was because of their appearance and 7% because of race or ethnicity. The NGA has produced guidance on [effective behaviour management](#).

Martyn's law for education settings

The DfE has published a [policy paper](#) for schools on how they can prepare for Martyn's Law. The Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025, commonly known as Martyn's Law, makes individuals working at premises and events responsible for minimising the impact of a terrorist attack. There will be an implementation period of at least 24 months before the act comes into force, during which the government will publish statutory guidance

to further assist schools in meeting the requirements.

School-based nurseries programme expanded

Schools are now being invited to bid for up to £150,000 to create or expand on-site nurseries as part of phase two of the school-based nurseries programme. Prioritising disadvantaged areas, the scheme is being supported by £45 million funding, aiming to support a further 300 new or expanded nurseries by 2026-27. Schools have until 11 December to apply. To learn more and apply, [read the DfE guidance](#).

The School of Signs

The British Deaf Association has officially backed The School of Signs, a brand-new, free BSL programme created by Signature, in collaboration with RAD, ITV Signpost, and 2Simple. Every lesson is designed and delivered by Deaf BSL users, giving schools across the UK the chance to introduce pupils to sign language and Deaf culture in the most authentic way possible. To learn more and sign up: <https://theschoolofsigns.org.uk/>

Message from the Nottinghamshire Association of Governors (NAGs)

Dear Governors

As a reminder to all governors, the Nottinghamshire Association of Governors' video, highlighting who we are and what we do, is available [here](#).

As part of your affiliation, you are invited to the **upcoming network sessions**:

- for **chairs and vice chairs**, on **Tuesday 11th November 5 – 6pm** and
- for those in their **first term of office**, on **Thursday 13th November 5 – 6pm**

At these sessions, there will be open discussions about issues relevant to governors, including but not limited to effective monitoring visits and the impact on boards of increased incidence of complaints.

If you would like an invitation, please contact governors@nottscc.gov.uk who will forward a meeting invitation.



Welcome New Chairs of Governors!

If you've recently taken on the role of Chair of Governors — congratulations and thank you for stepping up to lead your governing board. The Nottinghamshire Association of Governors (NAGs) is here to support you in this vital role.

As part of our ongoing commitment to effective governance, we're delighted to support Chairs, who have been appointed within the last 12 months, with **free digital access to The Chairs' Handbook** — an invaluable resource from the National Governance Association (NGA). The handbook provides practical guidance, tools and insights to help you lead with confidence and ensure your board makes a real impact.



If your board has purchased NAGs membership, you can receive your free digital copy: simply contact the Nottinghamshire Association of Governors at nottinghamshiregovernors@gmail.com.

We look forward to supporting you in your new role and helping you make a difference in your school community.

Finally, nominations are open for the **NAGs Governing Body of the year, Governor of the year and special recognition award**.

Who in your governance hemisphere deserves a mention? Please ask your clerk to governors for a nomination form. Awards will be announced at the NCC Governor Conference on 6th March 2026. Closing date for nominations is **Friday 16th January 2026**.

Thank you all for your continued service to the schools within our county.

Best wishes

Sue Beasley
Chair of the Nottinghamshire Association of Governors

Celebrating Governance – Public Service – long service award for school governance

Governors are the largest volunteer body in the country, and they freely give up their time to help make our schools better and give children the best opportunity to reach their potential. Governors do this because they genuinely believe in the power that education has to transform young lives and to make a difference in our communities. You are all truly amazing!

Nottinghamshire County Council is incredibly grateful to all of the 3000 amazing Nottinghamshire school governors, and we want to give a special thanks to those governors who have now served **10 years and over.**

Mr Martin Senior Crescent Primary

Mrs Kathryn Thorpe Prospect Hill Infant and Nursery



If you, or someone on your governing body, has given over 10 years of dedication to your school, please let the Governor Services Business Support Team know and we will arrange for a certificate of thanks to be emailed to your governor. governors@nottscc.gov.uk

HEAD, CHAIRS and GOVERNORS – IMPORTANT TERMLY BRIEFINGS

As part of the advice and guidance service (that the school pays for), governors should access the pre-recorded termly webinars in preparation for your full governing board meetings at the start of each new term.

Key actions are identified for governors for that term, and senior officers from across the authority, present the directors reports to governors directly, highlighting any governor actions and recommendations. A question to posed to boards by Ofsted is often, “How do you know?” The governors briefings may provide you with this answer and evidence.

Governors can access all of this support at their own convenience, or the Chair and Headteacher could diary this in to make arrangements to watch the briefing together, as part of preparations for an effective governing body meeting. The link to the Autumn recorded briefing containing the Corporate Director's reports is here: <https://youtu.be/c3KkclKUSv8>



National Smoking, Drinking and Drug use survey of young people

The national Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use (SDD) among Young People in England survey has been the main source of information on alcohol, drug and tobacco use among young people in England since 1982. It collects information on attitudes and experiences of secondary school students, covering smoking (including vaping), drinking alcohol and taking drugs. The next survey will take place between September 2025 and February 2026. Further information about the survey, and a link for schools to register interest, is at <https://hubs.la/Q03wb5TG0>

Consultation: Banning the sale of high-caffeine energy drinks to children

The Department of Health and Social Care is seeking views on banning the sale of high-caffeine energy drinks to children under 16. The consultation has been launched as a result of growing concerns relating to excessive caffeine consumption in children and the impact on their health, wellbeing, and academic performance.



The [consultation](#) closes at 11:59pm on 26 November 2025.

Inspire Education Library Service

The Inspire Education Library Service (ELS) currently supports over 250 schools across Nottinghamshire, Nottingham City, Derbyshire and Derby City. Inspire ELS helps schools to embed a strong culture of reading, demonstrated by pupils' confidence in and enjoyment of reading, which sets them up to become lifelong readers.

Becoming an ELS member school is an effective way to spend DfE Pupil Premium funding, meeting evidence-informed criteria within the EEF's tiered 'menu of approaches' (2025) and the DfE's Reading Framework (2023) and will have a positive impact on pupil outcomes.

Governors may want to ask if their school is an ELS member or to find out more about becoming an ELS member school:

Call: 0115 804 4499

Email: elsg@inspireculture.org.uk

How to access the Schools' Portal

Governors will be aware that **all Governor Services information is available on the Nottinghamshire Governor Services GovernorHub pages**. Information can also be found on the Schools' Portal in named folders for all services purchased by the school from the Local Authority and which governors may need. To access the Schools' Portal you will need a user name and password, which may be obtained from your school administrator and then go to: <http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/schoolsportal/governors>

The Nottinghamshire Governor Newsletter is a joint publication of the Governor Services team of Nottinghamshire County Council and the Nottinghamshire Association of Governors (NAGs)

Editors: Jayne Littlewood, Dave Hill, Ruth Palmer, Sinéad Allan, Carol Brierley and Liz Terzza.

The views expressed in the Nottinghamshire Governor Newsletter are the views of the authors of the articles and do not necessarily reflect the policy of NCC or NAGs. The editors welcome contributions from governors who feel they have information or views to share. If you wish to suggest or discuss an idea for an article, please contact Governor Services using the details below.

Governor Services - Team Contact Details

Sinéad Allan - Team Manager T: 0115 8043906 E: sinead.allan@nottscg.gov.uk

Carol Brierley – Senior Professional Practitioner T: 0115 8044623 E: carol.brierley@nottscg.gov.uk

Liz Terzza – Professional Practitioner T: 0115 8043857 E: liz.terzza@nottscg.gov.uk
(Monday – Tuesday)

Governor Services Business Support Team T: 0115 8044666 E: governors@nottscg.gov.uk