



Spotlight on Governance.

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School & Governor Support

Aims of this session

This session will cover the current work of School and Governor Support (S&GS) and our aims and aspirations for governance across the city.

We will outline how these promote strong effective governance, which in turn supports and challenges school leaders to achieve the best outcomes for Birmingham's children and young people.

The role of School and Governor Support in governance

- S&GS is the lead service for governance at Birmingham City Council.
- We fulfil a number of statutory duties such as LA governor recruitment.
- We undertake crucial governance oversight functions.
- We deliver a wide variety of training sessions that support effective governance in the city.
- We offer advice, guidance and consultancy to school leaders and governors across schools that subscribe to the service. For governance, this includes an fortnightly update 'Spotlight on Governance' and the maintenance and issue of documents such as the Audit Tool and Agenda Briefing.

Our Team and how we work with other BCC Education Services



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Aims & Aspirations

S&GS seeks to:

Support governing boards to fulfil their 3 core functions effectively:

1. *Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;*
2. *Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the effective and efficient performance management of staff; and*
3. *Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent.*

Offer advice, guidance, consultancy, together with support and challenge for the GB to enable it to provide confident and strong strategic leadership which leads to robust accountability, oversight and assurance for educational and financial performance.

Aims and Aspirations – Governor Recruitment

Where we are now

- 3904 governor positions
- 3403 governors in post (40% male/60% female)
- 501 vacancies (13%)
- 23 LA Governor vacancies
- 83% of GBs in Birmingham are operating with at least $\frac{3}{4}$ of its positions filled
- 10 governors (0.25%) are serving on 3 or more GBs

Current and future plans

- Featured vacancies for all remaining LA vacancies
- Targeted recruitment support for boards with high number of vacancies and for special types of schools e.g. Nursery schools, special schools
- Focused activities on recruitment of under-represented groups e.g. young governors, governors from minority ethnic backgrounds
- Further develop links with governor recruitment providers, particularly to support recruitment to hard to fill vacancies

Aims and Aspirations – Governor Training

Where we are now

- 1295 attendees on S&GS online training courses in 2020/21
- 92% of delegates rated their S&GS learning experience as good/excellent in 2020/21

Current and future plans

- Maintain the current high levels of positive feedback
- Move to a new training platform on BESS
- Expand current range of courses particularly working with other BCC service areas
- Increase the number of governors attending training
- Develop existing courses
- Increase responsiveness to governor's specific training requests

Aims and Aspirations – Governance Oversight

Where we are now

- routine oversight of governance at BCC maintained schools
- working collaboratively with schools, other BCC education services and BEP to identify GBs that are in need of targeted support and/or additional challenge

Current and future plans

- utilising routine oversight to inform S&GS's strategies for recruitment and training
- strengthening collaborate working with BEP
- raising the profile of governance
- championing high standards of governance

Further information

[2021/22 S&GS Service Offer](#)

[Governor recruitment and featured vacancies](#)

[Governor training](#)

[Governance Oversight](#)

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