

*A regular news sheet for
Governors of Schools
throughout the Bradford
District*

Education Bradford
School Governor Service

DECEMBER 2009



Season's Greetings to all Governors' and Best Wishes for the New Year

Governors' Conference - December 2009

Well-delivered, well-attended and well-received; and yes, we will do it all over again next year.



That was the overall evaluation of the 150 governors who joined us on Friday 4 December at our governors' conference in the Ramada Jarvis Hotel, Bingley.

We would like to say a huge thank you to all the governors who took a day out of their busy lives to attend the conference and for making it a resounding success.

The theme of the conference was the education White Paper, 'Your child, your schools, your future: building a 21st century schools system' (June 2009) and in particular its implications for school governors.

Governors were welcomed to the conference with a musical performance from pupils at Wilsden Primary School, who got the conference underway. Their contribution set a positive tone for the entire day.

Lesley Hart, Director of School Improvement, Education Bradford, ably compered the day and

opened the conference by welcoming all in attendance. She acknowledged the huge contribution governors make to the raising of achievement of children and young people in Bradford. She stated that, as a collective group across the district, governors give of their time both generously and freely and the attendance at the conference was indicative of their commitment and support.

Governors were inspired and enthused by our two keynote speakers Catherine Fitt, National College of School Leadership and Mike Gibbons, Chief Executive, Richard Rose Federation, Carlisle.

Catherine was appointed earlier this year as the new Strategic Director for the National College's leadership development programme. In her new role Catherine is responsible for establishing a new leadership programme for all directors of children's services and those who aspire to the role.

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In her opening address Catherine spoke about the implications of the education White Paper for schools and governors. She highlighted the importance of schools working together and stated that there is now an expectation that schools will work more collaboratively. She urged governors to embrace innovative models of leadership that are better able to meet the needs of the children in their schools. Catherine finished her presentation by reminding governors that their role is vital in bringing about change.

Our second keynote speaker was Mike Gibbons, who is currently the Chief Executive of the Richard Rose Federation, which runs the Richard Rose Central Academy. He was asked by the Government to take the lead in a federation comprising three secondary schools in Carlisle. Mike is an experienced and successful school leader with more than 30 years experience in education.

Mike shared his insightful and humorous view of education and children, and the need for innovation that keeps pace with the ever-changing climate. Mike spoke about



the need to change our educational system in Britain from one which is teacher-motivated to personally-motivated; from age based cohorts to personalised; from system demand led to learner demand led and individually produced to being co-produced. He noted that children are technologically advanced and often 'motor' down rather than up when they come into school. Schools and governors, he stressed, need to understand the whole child as well as their learning needs and our education system should be one that makes learning irresistible.

After each of the keynote addresses governors were asked as a group on their tables to agree a 'killer' question

that later would be presented to the 'Question Time' panel after the morning break. The panel comprised Catherine, Mike, Denise Faulconbridge, Managing Director of Education Bradford and Kath Tunstell, Strategic Director for Children's Services, Bradford Metropolitan District Council and was chaired by Lesley Hart. Although only some of the questions raised by governors were posed, each panellist responded to a question. Lesley informed governors all questions and answers as well as those not posed would be published in the next edition of the governors' newsletter in the spring term.

Some of the issues raised on the day included:

- The importance of training and support for governors and schools to ensure they are able to carry out the responsibilities highlighted in the White Paper.
- The political implications of the White Paper. There are small differences between the major political party's education manifestos. It is likely that the key areas in the White Paper will be implemented
- The necessity of schools capturing the voice of key stakeholders including parents and pupils.
- Governing bodies will need to consider their future size and make up to ensure they are equipped to meet the needs of the White Paper while continuing to reflect community and parental viewpoints.
- The need to consider alternative leadership models (federations), innovation and schools working more collaboratively to deliver better/positive outcomes for children across the District.
- Developing education systems that include a workforce that is responsive.
- Governors need to make better use of data and information to effectively hold schools to account.

Just before and after lunch governors attended two workshops of their choice. They were able to discuss the implications as well as their own particular concerns and issues relating to the new Ofsted framework, safeguarding, locality working, their strategic role and Bradford's priorities. The workshops were particularly well received and our workshop leaders led both engaging and interactive sessions.

Victoria Mulley and Anna Simpson provided music during the lunch break. This was greatly appreciated by governors.

Denise set the tone for the afternoon by playing a thought-provoking video called 'Shift Happens'. After the video was shown Denise re-emphasised the point that we were training children for

a changing world. She stated that governors were faced with the challenge of equipping children with skills for jobs that do not yet exist. The video can be viewed by following the link

http://www.teachertube.com/viewVideo.php?video_id=1785&title=ShiftHappens

Kath followed Denise by talking about the Education Review currently being carried out by the Council, who are considering the future of education services in Bradford after July 2011.

During the day, governors were able



to visit the stands of a number of exhibitors in attendance at the event. They included the Music Service, Human Resources, Library Service, One to One Tuition and Adamson Publishers.

Finally, our thanks to the Music and Arts Service, Education Bradford, who were in attendance at the conference for the whole day and who organised entertainment for governors. Governors showed their appreciation to the Senior String Ensemble for bringing our conference to its conclusion.



School News

School News is not only available through Bradford Schools Online, but it can be delivered to you by e-mail too. All you need to do is subscribe. The service is free and will deliver to you at 12:00 noon each Friday during term time a digest of all the news that week. To subscribe please go to Bradford Schools Online at schools.educationbradford.com (note there is no 'www') and then click on the 'Subscribe To News' button. All we need is your e-mail address. You can unsubscribe at any time.

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Public Consultation on the Pupil and School Information Regulations

The Children's Plan Progress Report commits the Government to reviewing the secondary legislation which governs the information that schools record and provide on pupils (in educational and curricular records and school reports); and on themselves (in prospectuses).

This consultation sets out proposed amendments to this legislation, which is intended to help parents to have better access to information about their children's learning and development, at the right time. When implemented, the revised regulations will be accompanied by guidance for schools and local authorities - views on the content of the guidance are also welcomed.

Further information can be found at <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations> and the closing date for responses is 1 February 2010.

Click Clever Click Safe



The Government has launched the UK Council for Child Internet Safety's first strategy document, which aims to help children stay safe online. The strategy sets out how members of the Council will support schools, LAs and others working with children and families to deliver high-quality online safety education.

The Government also launched a new digital code: 'Zip it, Block it, Flag it', which will become a green cross code for the internet.

Details are available on the UKCCIS website at <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/ukccis/>

Hothfield Junior School Governing Body

The governing body of Hothfield Junior School feel they are an affective governing body and would like to share their thoughts with other governors:

The governing body has a full complement of eighteen members; this has been so for a number of years. The Chair, the Clerk and the Headteacher keep track of the terms of office and succession planning for future members. All governors are involved in the committee work.

The Finance, Personnel, Curriculum, Premises and Health & Safety committees meet regularly each half term and the minutes are circulated to each governor before the governing body meeting. Other committees meet on a regular basis. Each Chair of the committee gives a report at the governing body meeting by highlighting any issues and answering any questions. The Chair of the Parents' Committee gives a report to governors at each governing body meeting.

The 13 named governors give a report once a year on a reporting programme determined at the first meeting of the autumn term.

Governance issues arising are dealt with by governors immediately either by working parties or on an individual basis. Governing Body meetings are chaired well with an easy, friendly atmosphere.

All business is dealt with efficiently. All governors are able to make a contribution and so feel valued.

Most governors visit school on a regular basis and governors' links with classes is being developed.

Governors attend courses to become more informed and report back at governing body meetings.

Governors are very involved with the life of the school attending school events and often taking part. This reinforces Hothfield Junior Schools' role at the hub of the community

The governing body and the school consider that they are working well together as an excellent and effective team with the interests of the pupils and the community always in mind.

School Governor Area Briefings

The first area briefing meetings for the 5 new areas took place in November and were quite well attended with good feedback about the content.

The next round of briefings will take place as follows :

Keighley Ilkley - Monday 15 March 2009, 7pm at Victoria Primary School, Keighley

Bradford West – Tuesday 16 March 2009, 7pm at Crossley Hall Primary School, Bradford 8

Bradford South – Monday 22 March 2009, 7pm at Wibsey Primary School, Bradford 6

Bradford East – Tuesday 23 March 2009, 7pm at Grove House Primary School, Bradford 2

Shipley – Thursday 25 March 2009, 7pm at St Walburga's Catholic Primary School, Shipley

Agendas for these meetings will be sent out nearer the time to Briefing representatives.

If you would like to attend any of the briefings please ring School Governor Service on (01274) 385629 to book a place, or e-mail school.governor@educationbradford.com

The minutes for the Autumn Term 2009 Briefings can be found on the Education Bradford website www.educationbradford.com and Bradford Schools Online.

Sexist, sexual and transphobic bullying

The document Guidance for schools on preventing and responding to sexist, sexual and transphobic bullying was published 10 December 2009. It forms part of Safe to learn, the suite of guidance materials about tackling bullying in mainstream and special schools. It is designed to help schools to identify and deal with sexist, sexual and transphobic bullying involving young people and provides practical guidance on dealing with allegations of bullying. As well as the guidance document, a quick guide is also available, both from the 'Bullying' section on TeacherNet.

<http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/wholeschool/behaviour/tacklingbullying/>

St Luke's C.E Primary School – Christmas Celebrations

For the fourth year now our school choir has been invited to perform at the Eccleshill Village Christmas Lights “switch on.” This year for the first time our Steel Band also performed. As always we were very proud of our children. The choir sang beautifully with the support of Miss Slee, our music specialist and

the Steel band provided a wonderful sound under the direction of Ms Jacquiss, our music teacher. Everyone enjoyed the event despite the wet and windy weather outside and our children were well supported by families, friends, staff and governors from St Luke's CE Primary School.



Timetable for action

Timetable for action sets out how the commitments in Your child, your schools, our future: Building a 21st century school system will become a reality, and so create a schools system for the 21st Century that provides a great start in life for every child, in every school.

Many of the reforms set out in Your child, your schools, our future: Building a 21st century school system are already well underway. Other changes need legislation, or further consultation on the detail before they start. The Children, Schools and Families Bill is currently going through Parliament and will bring key changes – including pupil and parent guarantees – into law in 2010, if it is passed by Parliament. There will be several consultations starting during 2010.

Visit DCSF's website for further information and to download the timetable.

Guidance on managing staff employment in schools

The primary purpose of this document is to provide guidance on the School Staffing (England) Regulations 2009 (the 2009 Regulations) by explaining what is required of governing bodies, LAs and headteachers. Where appropriate, it also gives some guidance on, or pointers to, other acts and regulations relevant to the employment of staff in maintained schools.

This guidance supersedes the Staffing

guidance under sections 35(8) and 36(8) of the Education Act 2002 (the 2002 Act) and came into effect on 2 November 2009.

This advice is not comprehensive and is included primarily to draw attention to other legislation and guidance that needs to be considered, some of which may be statutory.

The document can be downloaded at <http://publications.teachernet.gov.uk/>

New Ofsted Focus on SEN Provision

The DCSF has announced plans to strengthen inspection law so schools are assessed on how they support children with special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities.

There will be two statutory changes: one to provide a right of appeal for parents if an LA decides not to amend a statement after a review, and one to place a specific duty on Ofsted to report on the quality of the education provided for disabled children and children with SEN.

To ensure schools are ready to meet this strengthened inspection framework, national guidelines have been published in the DCSF/National Strategies document Progression Guidance 2009-10 to help schools set challenging targets for children with special educational needs. Download the publication at <http://nationalstrategies.standards.dcsf.gov.uk/node/190123>

Notepad is a regular news sheet produced for all governors of schools throughout the Bradford District. It is intended to be a brief and cost effective way of providing all school governors with up-to-date information about services, local and regional activities, and training opportunities.

Notepad is compiled and produced by School Governor Service, Education Bradford, Future House, Bolling Road, Bradford, West Yorkshire, BD4 7EB.

Pat Elcock, Linda Townsend, Diane Kenyon, Clive Linnett, Flick Blackwood and Donna Slater are happy to provide any further information you may need about any item appearing in this issue. We can be contacted at the above address or Tel 01274 385629, Fax 01274 385588, e-mail: school.governor@educationbradford.com



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