

Primary Curriculum Review

In December, it was announced in the Children's Plan that Sir Jim Rose has been appointed to lead an independent review of the primary curriculum, working closely with the QCA. His brief is to report back to ministers with recommendations by the end of March 2009.

Sir Jim is keen to receive evidence and views from as many stakeholders as possible and is particularly eager to hear from the

school workforce. A call for evidence has been issued and you can respond online or download a response form from the DCSF website by following the link below. You are invited to provide evidence and comments to Sir Jim Rose on any of the five main aspects of the review set out in the questionnaire:

- Curriculum Design and Content
- Reading, Writing and Numeracy
- Modern foreign Languages

- Personal Development
- Transition and Progression

The closing date for response to the consultation is April 30 2008.

This is only the first stage of the consultation process. In the coming months the QCA will be organising a number of events to seek views and develop proposals. It is planned to publish an interim report in the autumn.

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Education Bradford

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

Education Bradford
School Governor Service

APRIL 2008



To Achieve School Improvement through
the Effective Governance of Schools

School Governor Forums

The Summer Term School Governor Forums will take place as follows :

Keighley / Ilkley / Bingley	Thursday 12 June 2008, 7.15pm at Riddlesden St Mary's CE Primary School
Bradford West / South	Monday 9 June 2008, 7.15pm at Future House
Bradford North / Shipley	Wednesday 11 June 2008, 7.00pm at Wycliffe CE Primary School

If you are unable to attend the meeting in your area, you are more than welcome to attend one of the other forums, or alternatively pass the information on to one of your colleagues to attend in your place.

Clerk to Governors Spring Term Briefings will take place on:

Monday 9 June 2008, 1.00 - 3.00pm at Future House, Bolling Road, Bradford 4
Or
Tuesday 10 June 2008, 7.00 - 9.00pm at Wycliffe CE Primary School, Saltaire Road, Shipley

To reserve your place please ring School Governor Service on 01274 385629 as soon as possible.

We value your comments

Included in the Easter mailing to all governors is the "School Governor Service Evaluation". This document looks at each of the services we provide and asks those who have experienced them over the last year to rate our performance.

This annual process is important to School Governor Service in allowing us to modify what we provide for governors as well as indicating areas where we might improve our services. Please return this form as soon as possible.

Ramadan 2008

When arranging your governing body meetings for 2008-09 please note that Ramadan is likely to begin on 1 September and run for approximately 29-30 days. Eid-ul-Fitr is likely to fall on 30 September. This may have implications for the timing of governing body meetings as governors may wish to have time available to open their fast or may wish to be at home with their families at dusk. The first meeting of the school year is a particularly important one as it is the one at which committee membership is agreed and the election of the chair and vice-chair may take place. Some schools have found it helpful to meet earlier in the day than usual in order to accommodate the needs of their governors. For further information please contact Diversity & Cohesion on (01274) 385619.

Promoting Community Cohesion in Schools

Introduction

The new duty to promote community cohesion came into force in England from September 2007. It builds on the existing legal duties on school governing bodies under the Race Relations Amendment Act 2000 (RRAA) to eliminate unlawful racial discrimination and to promote equality of opportunity and good relations between people of different groups.

Ofsted inspections of the contribution that schools make to community cohesion will start from September 2008.

In 2007 the DCSF and Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) produced Guidance on the Duty to Promote Community Cohesion. This was uploaded onto the E-portal at the time. The guidance states:

'By community cohesion, we mean working towards a society in which there is a common vision and sense of belonging by all communities; a society in which the diversity of people's backgrounds and circumstances is appreciated and valued; a society in which similar life opportunities are available to all; and a society in which strong and positive relationships exist and continue to be developed in the workplace, in schools and in the wider community' (Guidance on the Duty to Promote Community Cohesion p 3; DCSF & DCLG)

Support for Schools

The Diversity and Cohesion service have developed a range of resources and support to schools in promoting community cohesion. A website: <http://www.cohesionbradford.org/> has been developed to support schools with this. It provides information about on-going projects and a forum for teachers and others involved in education to share experiences, views and good practice. For further information and support please contact:

Jani Rashid: Head of Diversity and Cohesion on 01274 385619 or Email: jani.rashid@educationbradford.com

Diane Hadwen: Diversity and Cohesion Manager on 01274 385623 or Email: diane.hadwen@educationbradford.com

Getting key information to you

We have plans to radically improve the information currently provided via the schools e-portal Bradfordschools.net. By September we want to radically redevelop the site as our primary means of providing information to all school staff and governors. To achieve this it will undergo a complete transformation.

The development will take time to achieve in full, but this is a list of the features we have already planned:

- All the Key Data about your school in one accessible, secure place. This will be available from September 2008.
- The facility to look at a wide range of data in detail and in comparison with similar Bradford schools.
- The facility to create 'virtual schools' so you can explore and compare the results of different pupil groups.
- We are moving towards all group information with schools being delivered electronically (this will be available from the re-launch of the new site).

We hope that through these kind of developments everyone working with schools will have access to the same data and information at the same time from any computer with internet access. This single, shared source of data can then inform all discussions with a new level of confidence.

For further information please contact Alan Smith on 01274 385820 or e-mail alan.smith@educationbradford.com

THE ITEMS COVERED IN THIS ISSUE:

- > Three year school budget
- > Second annual Nutrition Conference
- > Accademic Review days
- > Governor Feedback on Headteacher Performance Management
- > The School Self-Evaluation form (SEF) 2008
- > Annual Governor Conference 2008
- > Primary Curriculum Review
- > School Governor Forums
- > Ramadan 2008
- > We value your comments

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. John Hesketh, Linda Townsend, Diane MacBairdy and Geoffrey Green 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, Tel 01274 385629, Fax 01274 385624, e-mail: school.governor@educationbradford.com



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Three Year School Budgets

Under changed national arrangements, schools have, for the first time, received 'three year' budgets. Schools received notification of their budget allocations for the period 2008 to 2011 immediately before the Easter holiday break. The government's estimate of the overall impact of pay and price increases is 3.1% per annum and requires that school budgets must increase by at least 2.1% (the 'Minimum Funding Guarantee') with schools expected to make 1% 'efficiency savings' in each of the next three years. The actual overall percentage increases per pupil for Bradford schools in 2008/09 are:-

Nursery schools	3.8%
Primary schools	4.3%
Secondary schools	4.7%
Special schools	6.4%
Total	4.3%

These percentages are greater than estimated inflationary pressures and provide for a modest 'real terms' increase in funding.

Alan Jarvis, Head of School Funding

Academic Review Days

The Department for Children, Schools & Families (DCSF) understands that some schools have been closing for Academic Review Days (also known as Target Review Days or Pupil Planning Days). This has enabled staff to meet all parents with their children for a short time (usually no more than 15 minutes) to assess curricular progress and to set personalised targets, instead of meeting parents with children in the evening. After the meeting the pupils return home with their parents.

However, reducing the number of teaching days to 189 puts schools in breach of the Regulations that require 190 days. Further information is available in guidance on the DCSF website. Copies of the Pupil Registration Regulations and the School Day and School Year Regulations are accessible from the UK Statute Law Database.

Visit the DCSF School Attendance website for more information and guidance <http://www.dfes.gov.uk/schoolattendance/>

Second Annual Nutrition Conference

The second annual conference "Governing School Food - Look Beyond the Dining Room" will be taking place on the 17 May 2008 at City Hall in Bradford. The event last year was a huge success and this year's event is being brought to you as a result of both recent requests from Governors and also the feedback from delegates last year. The event is being organised through the positive partnership approach with Razwana Mahmood (Bradford Council's School Food Initiatives Coordinator), Facilities Management's - Education Contract Services, The Dietetics Department from St Luke's Hospital and National Healthy Schools.

We have several keynote speakers including Dr Michael Nelson from the School Food Trust. Dr Nelson has a long-standing interest in the diets of children in the UK and the associations between nutrition and health. He is currently the Head of Research for the School Food Trust.

This year, as well as bringing Governors up to date on current school food developments, the focus will be on sharing best practice, and as a result of feedback from last years evaluations, all delegates will also be participating in a learning



together activity on the Whole School Food Policy which government now expects all schools to have. This will be a great opportunity to learn from colleagues at various stages of policy development.

Breakfast and registration will commence at 8.30am with the conference starting at 9.00am. Lunch is anticipated at 1.30pm when delegates can use the opportunity to relax, enjoy the meal, network, visit the marketplace or just make new friends.

Pre-booking of the conference is a prerequisite due to the strict health and safety limits on numbers that can be accommodated in the Banqueting Suite. Anyone turning up on the day without advance booking will be very disappointed if unable to gain entry into the building. To book a place, please contact the School Governor Service on (01274) 385629 or e-mail school.governor@educationbradford.com



Governor Feedback on Headteacher Performance Management

In accordance with government requirements School Improvement Partners (SIPs) were allocated to all primary schools in September 2007. This is part of the New Relationship with Schools. SIPs undertook a number of tasks in the autumn term including looking at standards and achievement data with the school, statutory target setting and advising governors on the headteacher performance management process.

Under the previous arrangements the Governing Body received advice from an external adviser but the revised Performance Management regulations introduced in September require the Governing Body to use the allocated SIP.

In a sense this was a new process for us all and we were keen to seek the views of governors and headteachers in order to make any necessary improvements for 2008-09. Following the review meetings governors were asked to provide some feedback on how the process ran. We are very grateful to those governors who took the time and trouble to share their views with us. Included below are the findings from the survey.

There is a statutory deadline for this work which is 31 December. A small number of schools ran into difficulties in meeting this deadline usually because dates were arranged too late in the term which then had to be cancelled because of the non availability of one of the participants. We will be encouraging headteachers and governors to undertake this work much earlier next autumn. Some schools already do this in September and many more are already planning to do so because they want headteacher objectives to be agreed before those of the rest of the teaching staff.

Headteacher Performance Management Autumn 2007
Evaluation by Governors
Numbers correct at 10th January 2008:

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
The SIP showed high standards of professionalism in terms of preparation, punctuality and conduct	53 (84%)	10 (16%)	0	0
The pre visit advice was helpful & clear	39 (67%)	19 (33%)	0	0
The pre review meeting was helpful	47 (35%)	12 (12%)	0	0
The SIP helped us to ask challenging questions	35 (59%)	24 (41%)	0	0
The SIP showed understanding and empathy towards the school's circumstances	52 (83%)	11 (17%)	0	0
The SIP made constructive suggestions	55 (87%)	8 (13%)	0	0
The SIP helped us to assess progress to date	45 (76%)	14 (24%)	0	0
Number of responses = 63				

The School Self-Evaluation Form (SEF) 2008

To ensure that schools have an effective, up-to-date tool to record their self-evaluation, Ofsted carries out an annual review of the SEF template. This year Ofsted will publish the revised SEF in late July. Only minor changes will be made to the current template, and structural changes will be avoided. The SEF website will be taken offline for one day in late July to implement the amendments and to transfer schools' data and text to the revised version; the SEFs will not need to be rewritten.

In early July, schools will be notified of the date of publication and of the maintenance period; they will also be informed of the headline changes being made to the SEF.

Annual Governor Conference 2008

The Governing Body - Fit For Purpose?

The theme of this year's Conference will be following up on last year's challenge of what Governing Bodies might look like in the future and is particularly timely given that the DCSF currently have proposals in the Children's Plan for strengthened accountability and governance.

Our Keynote Speaker will be Professor John Adams, current Vice President of The National Governors Association (NGA).

In addition to the main speaker we are inviting representatives of two governing bodies who have received recognition from Ofsted for their leadership and governance. There will be a workshop for both Primary and Secondary governors to discuss what these governing bodies do and to see if this either confirms your actions or may have some elements of good practice that would be applicable in your situation.

Places are limited so booking will be taken on a first come first served basis.

Date and Venue:
Saturday 14 June 2008
10.30am - 2.00pm at Heaton Mount Management Centre