

Revised school admissions code

Following consultation, a revised school admissions code came into force on 10 February. From September 2011, it will require admission authorities to provide for the admission of all children in the September following their fourth birthday, and must include part-time provision. It will be for parents to choose.

Authorities must also continue to allow parents of children admitted to school before they are of compulsory school age to defer their child's entry until later in the same school year. The only changes to the code, made by this revision, are to paragraphs 2.65 and 2.69. Further information can be found at <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/sacode/>

Getting to grips with our environment - Helping schools minimise their environmental impacts

The Council has created a brand new Environment & Climate Change Unit based within Facilities Management at Flockton House. Richard Williamson took up the challenging new post of E&CC Manager at the end of January coming back to Bradford after some 20 years working on environmental issues in Scotland.

The establishment of the ECCU strongly reflects the Council's ambitious commitment to drive ahead on its environmental agenda across a range of work streams. From energy audits and CO2 emissions reductions to travel planning and waste management the team will be working with colleagues to develop practical plans and actions to make more efficient use of our natural resources.

For more information please contact Lee Anne Sagar on lee.anne.sagar@bradford.gov.uk or telephone 01274 433885.



Behaviour and discipline in schools

Parents will be expected to sign up to school behaviour policies when they apply for a school place, under proposals announced in February.

Proposed changes mean schools' policies will be brought to the attention of parents, before they apply for a place. Under the plans out for consultation, parents will also be asked to agree to the behaviour policy, amongst other policies such as attendance and uniform, as part of the application process.

These measures will apply to applications for school places made from this autumn, and will help parents recognise the importance of complying with a school's policies, once the child has been admitted.

The full press notice can be found at http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/Display.PN.cgi?pn_id=2010_0037

Making Carbon Reduction easy

The Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) - Energy Efficiency Scheme is a Government led mandatory scheme, starting in April 2010. CRC aims to drive down energy use and carbon emissions from all local authority buildings including schools. The UK has set CO2 reduction targets which Bradford Council has underpinned with its own ambitious CO2 reduction objectives. The ECCU will be contacting schools directly to talk about CRC and how we can work together on carbon reduction. The team will be developing a web resource which will provide more details about CRC, CO2 targets and other climate change issues.

You can find out more about CRC in general at www.environment-agency.gov.uk <<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/>>

Is this you?

Are you an experienced school governor who has a track record of effective governance and is willing to serve as an Additional Governor?

Additional Governors are experienced governors appointed to the governing body of a school that has been identified as having serious weakness or requiring special measures.

Additional governors, once appointed, have no specific powers over and above those governors already on the governing body; however, experience has shown that additional governors can play a valuable role if they have a particular expertise which is missing on the governing body.

If this is you or you would like to find out more, please contact Pat Elcock on 01274 385629 or e-mail school.governor@educationbradford.com

B.A. Hons 2009 – Thank you

Miss F-Elizabeth Evans wishes to thank all the primary school headteachers and chairs of governors who completed the questionnaire between 2008 and 2009 for her dissertation entitled the 'Dynamic Duo'.

One-to-One Tuition Update

DCSF One to One Tuition support materials for Governors will be available on teachernet from the beginning of April 2010 and can be found at <http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/teachingandlearning/onetoone>

Anna Tyszkiewicz, One to One Tuition Leader Tel: 01274 385976

Sing Up Awards

The Sing Up Awards celebrate and promote schools that value singing as an important part of each day. The Awards support schools on their journey through the Sing Up programme to make sure everyone gets the most from the resources and training.

The Awards complement other initiatives and programmes, such as Healthy Schools and the Schools Sports initiative. Similarly, the Every Child Matters objectives can be achieved through the Awards, by putting singing at the heart of schools life.



At the moment in Bradford we have one Silver school and one Gold school. Leaflets are being sent out to all schools with further information. The governing body must endorse the decision to apply for the Sing Up Awards.

Please go to www.singup.org for more details on how to attain the Awards.

Be an even better Governor

Be an even better governor with the help of Bradford Schools Online. You will need to log in to see the items highlighted in orange. Ask your head teacher or school administrator for your log in. schools.educationbradford.com Bradford Schools Online provides all governors with access to:

ITEM	WHERE IS IT?
The latest news affecting schools	On the home page
A free news subscription service e-mailed to you every Friday	On the home page under News, click 'Subscribe to News'
Information on closed schools and schools to be inspected	On the home page
A complete list of courses for governors	On the home page in the left hand navigation under 'Governors'
Up to date advice to governors	On the home page in the left hand navigation under 'Governors'
Previous editions of Notepad	On the home page in the left hand navigation under 'Governors'
Contact information for all Bradford schools	On the home page, click 'School Finder'
A way to tell us if something is wrong or missing	On the home page, click 'Feedback'
Key figures about your school	Our School click 'Key Data'
A tool to explore your school's results in greater detail with comparisons	Our School click 'Deeper Data'
The EB phonebook listing all officers and staff	On the home page, click 'Phone book'

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, Louise Brearley 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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Note PAD

Education Bradford

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

Education Bradford School Governor Service

APRIL 2010



To Achieve School Improvement through the Effective Governance of Schools

The More the Merrier: School Governor Service and Workforce Development Teams Join Forces

The Education Bradford School Governor Service and Workforce Development Teams have joined forces. The restructure will take effect from April 2010 and will bring together the related skills and experience of the teams committed to exploiting their mutual strengths.

The new synergy will be harnessed in the interests of a wider and more effective service to governors, while simultaneously enhancing the profile of the workforce reform agenda in schools.

The School Governor Service will continue to provide its existing range of statutory and traded services to governing bodies – information, clerking and training.

The expertise of the Workforce Development Team, meanwhile, will broaden the scope and offer of services by including the workforce development needs of school support staff – an aspect of growing prominence in governors' responsibilities.

Together, the New Team will forge stronger links between governing bodies, support staff in schools and the children's workforce at large.

Crucially, the new service will establish formal links with integrated training and development across the Bradford District. The service will establish systems for liaison and co-operation with the Local Authority to

implement the National Agreement in schools and across the range of allied services that contribute to the successful implementation of the Council's Children's Workforce Development Plan.

Specifically, the opportunity presented by the workforce remodelling agenda will provide an enhanced consultancy and advice service to schools, including training, organising networks and offering bespoke support to teaching assistants and social inclusion staff.

School Governor Service can of course be contacted on (01274) 385629 or e-mail school.governor@educationbradford.com

Funding Consultation - Review of the Dedicated Schools Grant

The long awaited consultation on revisions to the Dedicated Schools Grant has now been published. The consultation is about how funding will be distributed to local authorities. This is an important consultation as the amount of funding local authorities receive directly impacts on how much money schools receive. Local authorities and Schools Forums

will undoubtedly be responding to this consultation, but it is open to any individual, governing body, or local governor association to respond. It is appreciated that some of the consultation questions are highly technical, but you can pick and choose which questions to respond to.

The closing date for the

consultation is 7 June 2010. The NGA will be providing a briefing paper for members which will be available after the Easter break.

The full consultation papers can be viewed on the Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF) website via the attached link - Consultation on the Future Distribution of School Funding.

THE ITEMS COVERED IN THIS ISSUE:

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Special School Reorganisation

As you will be aware 10 of Bradford's Special Schools will close on 18 April 2010. In their place 7 new special schools will open on 19 April 2010. The development and implementation of plans to support the re-organisation has taken a considerable amount of hard work and effort over a number of years. Stakeholders across the District have been working closely in partnership to ensure the successful opening of the new schools.

Education Bradford would like to congratulate the work of the Special School Governors who have played a key role in the developments and would like to wish the Temporary Governing Bodies of the new special schools every success for the first term on opening.



Length of school year: Temporary reductions

Reductions for 2010/2011 for schools delivering the primary curriculum in 2011/2012

To help schools prepare for primary curriculum reforms being introduced in 2011/2012, ministers propose to reduce the minimum length of the school year in 2010/2011. The minimum length will change from 380 sessions (190 days) to 378 sessions (189 days) for all schools with Key Stage 1 and/or Key Stage 2 pupils. This will give those schools an additional non-contact day to help staff prepare for the curriculum reform.

Subject to parliamentary procedures, regulations will be amended in due course.

Reductions for all maintained schools in 2011/2012

In the light of the extra public holiday in 2012 for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, ministers are

mindful to reduce the length of the school year in 2011/2012 from the normal minimum of 380 half-day sessions to 378 half-day sessions (189 days). Local authorities and schools should plan for that school year on that basis.

Subject to Parliamentary procedures, regulations will be amended in due course.

This change is to ensure that school staff are treated the same as other workers, who will benefit from an extra public holiday.

The 2012 exams will be timetabled on the assumption that half-term will be in the week commencing 4 June so, unlike in a normal year, exams will be held in the last week of May.

DCSF will be writing to the School Teachers Review Body (STRB) about the implications for pay and conditions in 2011/2012.

Parental Engagement - Supporting Children's Learning & Development FREE HALF-DAY EVENT

Banqueting Suite, City Hall, Friday 21st May 2010

Choice of morning or afternoon session

With both the Government's and Ofsted's growing emphasis on the role parents play in their children's education, now, more than ever, is the time to establish what schools can do to promote parental engagement.

This half day event will provide solutions to schools in terms of developing their work with parents; in fulfilling the Parenting strand of the Extended Schools Core Offer & in meeting Ofsted requirements for parental engagement

Keynote Address from Professor Charles Desforges OBE

'The Impact of Parental Involvement on Children's Achievement'

Chris Waterman, editor of Children's Services Weekly

'Mapping the New Horizon-Post Election'

Dr Kathy Cremin

Local Impact of Parental Involvement on Positive Outcomes for Children & Families

Benefits of attending:

- Hear about the national evidence of the impact of parental involvement on pupil achievement

- Hear about the local evidence of the impact of parental involvement on positive outcomes for children & families

- Learn how the Bradford Parental Engagement Framework contributes to the SEF & provides evidence for Ofsted

- Gain knowledge of existing provision to support schools in engaging parents

- Consider & identify further support required to assist schools in developing effective parental engagement

For a booking form please e-mail sue.furniss@bradford.gov.uk

Report on Governance System Published

The Ministerial Working Group on School Governance has published its review of the current system since 1997, and concludes that governors have done good work to support school improvement.

School governors are one of the largest groups of volunteers and one of the best examples of civic engagement in the country. School governors perform a uniquely valuable job in helping to ensure that children learn in a safe, stimulating and highly professional environment.

The review looks at the strengths and weaknesses of the current school governance arrangements. It summarises the Working Group's considerations and details their findings.

Key findings of the report, The 21st century school: Implications and challenges for governing bodies, include:

- The majority of governing bodies do a good job.

- Governing bodies need to be clear about their purpose and follow a defined set of principles for good governance of schools.

- There needs to be more clarity concerning the strategic management role of the governing body and the day to day management role of head teachers to ensure that neither party crosses over into each other's role.

- The principle of stakeholder representation on governing bodies is essential but needs to be balanced against a requirement that all governing bodies have the necessary skills to carry out their tasks.

- Improvements to the training for chairs, new governors and clerks need are required.

The full report is available from the following link and is free of charge

<http://publications.teachernet.gov.uk/e/OrderingDownload/DCSF-00351-2010.PDF>

Elections to the Schools Forum



Voting papers were recently sent to all Primary school governors to elect representatives to serve on their behalf on the Schools Forum. There were two vacant positions and three candidates. The result of the voting was:-

Votes

Ian Crosby (Hothfield Junior)	128
Frances-Elizabeth Evans (Lilycroft Primary)	122
David Overend (Wilsden Primary)	108

Ian Crosby and Frances-Elizabeth Evans have therefore been elected to the Schools Forum to serve for the calendar years 2010 and 2011.

Locality Area Partnership (LAP) Development in Bradford West 3

Bradford West 3 Locality Area Partnership (LAP) is the smallest LAP in the District, comprising of 7 primary schools, 1 secondary school and 1 special school. This partnership was a continuation of the extended schools project Exceed, which was already fairly well established. The development of the LAP has certainly injected a new vibrancy into the BD7 area!

This opportunity to work together on joint projects that will enhance the achievement of all our children has brought us as school leaders, in our locality, together as a much more cohesive team. These relationships have enabled Bradford West 3 (BW3) LAP to really forge ahead with our collective ideas.

Our priorities are around the following areas:

1. Language Development:

- a proposal to employ a Language Development Worker to run pre ESOL classes for mothers of Nursery, Reception and Year 7 children, in addition to developing Language for

Learning classes for parents to help develop their children's linguistic skills.

2. Experiential learning:

- To develop a sustained BW3 wide outdoor education programme through the employment of an Extended Schools Development Worker with outdoor education skills.
- To develop a LAP Gifted and Talented Academy weekend school, where professionals are employed to harness and develop those children in our area who show great skill and aptitude for Drama, Art, Sport, Music, Maths and English, initially for Years 5 and 6, with the intention to extend to Years 7 and 8 in the future.

- Enhance the use of educational visits to broaden the life experiences of our children, strengthening their ability to discuss, debate and write.

- Develop BW3 as a centre of excellence for Building Learning

Power, through LAP wide training and implementation of BLP Champions in each primary school.

3. Attendance:

- To develop a LAP wide agreed policy about permission for family holidays and extended leave.
- To source and line manage our own Education Social Worker to address the persistent absence issues within the LAP

As a LAP we have found working together and pooling our experiences really valuable in creating our action plan and actions. However the difficulties have been around the time to actually carry out the actions due to time constraints on head teachers. So, for the duration of the summer term, with my Governors approval, I will be working for the LAP to get these plans into place for one day a week until the summer in the first instance. So watch this space!

Sara Rawnsley, Headteacher, Princeville Primary School

Local Government Ombudsman to launch a new schools complaints service

From 19 April 2010, the Local Government Ombudsman (LGO) will deliver a new complaints handling service for parents and pupils with concerns about schools. The first phase will involve maintained schools in four local authority areas – **Barking and Dagenham, Cambridgeshire, Medway and Sefton** Councils. The current plan is to then include a further group of local authorities from September 2010, with each phase being fully tested and evaluated in partnership with the Department for Children, Schools and Families before the full service is rolled out nationally from September 2011.

The LGO already considers complaints about a wide range of education matters including concerns about the special educational needs statementing process and provision of services for those children; the way in which appeals are heard in respect of school admissions and permanent exclusions; and the provision of school transport services. But, until recently the LGO has been prevented from considering complaints about internal school matters. The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 extended the LGO's jurisdiction to include such matters.

In almost all cases the complaints must first be considered at school level before the Ombudsman will get involved.

The LGO is an independent and impartial organisation that gathers facts and then acts to resolve justified complaints in a way that is fair to everyone involved. Their expertise in complaint handling for local government has spanned 35 years and much of this will be transferable to its expanded jurisdiction. More details on the local authorities for inclusion in the second phase will be released in due course.

Carlton Bolling College – Investors in Diversity (IiD) Standard

The Investors in Diversity (IiD) Standard has recently been achieved by CBC. The initial process involved a working party of 14 which consisted of teaching and non-teaching staff. Irshad Ahmed was nominated to be our IiD Champion. The IiD champion entrusted the help of the Community Initiatives Team (CIT) who have great knowledge and experience of working with people from all different backgrounds and communities. The Community Initiatives Team typifies diversity.

As part of this long process we needed to get the governors on board. The governors made a written commitment to IiD. The IiD Champion (Irshad Ahmed) involved the Head teacher and was supported fully. As an organisation, we have become more proactive in developing and sustaining the diversity of our workforce. Through the provision of support and services, CBC promotes diversity within. We seek to influence our wider partners to be positive about diversity.

There was consultation with local and national re-generation bodies (Inspired neighbourhoods). Our staff reached out in terms of out reach community work e.g. held an attendance presentation in a local

mosque (Madni Masjid). We had Adult classes in the college and our staff teaching in the community. Our Extended schools provision is expanding to cater for the local and wider communities. We started to develop a whole college approach with diversity in mind for all. The college has a unique Community initiative Team to support the college and helped support this whole process of IiD.

We hold an annual Community lunch with a view to naming it Diversity Lunch. This is always attended by diverse guests from the local and wider communities.

We now adopt or create a range of self assessment measures to assess development, new opportunities, the extent of culture shift and any improvement in the feeling of 'inner well being' within our organization.

Many surveys were compiled which included student survey, staff survey, parent survey, visitor surveys & stakeholder surveys.

Overall it was a massive and worthwhile project we encountered and compiled a whole plethora of evidence which included CBC Magazines/Booklets, Survey results, Initiatives within CBC Promoting Community Cohesion &

Diversity, Policies within School, Interviews and Photographs.

So finally what have we achieved?

- Social Harmony
- Community Cohesion
- Equal Opportunities
- Staff Voice
- Tolerance and understanding of each other.
- Celebration of different cultural events.
- We are all different, therefore diversity includes us all.

CBC would like to thank everyone involved and everyone that helped the School and our Communities achieve the Investors in Diversity (IiD) Standard, especially the Community Initiatives Team that put in a lot of hard work, time and effort and a special thank you to our head teacher who gave great support every step of the way.

We are the first Secondary School in the UK to achieve this standard. Congratulations to the whole school and everyone involved. It was a long process that took nearly two years of hard work and dedication to achieve, so we should all be proud of our specialism in diversity.

Irshad Ahmed, Carlton Bolling College Governing Body