



FOR INFORMATION

REPORT FOR SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES SPRING TERM 2020

REPORT TITLE: BARNSELY GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION (BGA) REPORT

Aim of the Report

To advise Governors of the continuing work of the BGA.

Main Points

The BGA remains active in the Borough pursuing our core commitment of supporting schools and governing boards to improve governance in Barnsley schools.

It is our core belief that improving governance will in turn drive the improvement of the educational offer at each school in the Borough, whatever its status and however it is deemed to be performing currently. Every school has the capacity to improve and ignoring that fact is a guarantee of failure at some point in the future.

The governing boards are the wider voice – the elements of the community that schools serve. Each of us knows, often instinctively, that the improvement of the quality of the education offer across the Borough for all children and young people continues to improve their life chances by creating a generation of confident and positive learners.

To achieve these aims, we continue to organise and provide training courses for governors in partnership with the Local Authority. We try to provide value added training to supplement the core offer from the Local Authority, and will continue to do this in 2019-2020. Details of the offer are available on our website at www.barnsleyga.org.

At the time of preparing this report we have recently provided courses on 'The Governor's Role in Supporting and Challenging a School', and 'Finance for Governors of Maintained Schools and Academies'. Future courses include 'Safeguarding for Governors' and 'Solving problems and making difficult decisions as a Governor'.

We have been reviewing our offer in this respect to widen it and make it more relevant to people's actual experience of governance. A new development has been the offer of Forums to discuss current issues affecting Governors. In March 2019 we held a Forum on addressing need and deprivation within schools, and in October we met to discuss the new OFSTED Inspection Regime. In December, we will be holding a session on the Governors role in dealing with exclusions. These sessions are focused on talking about current experience and the challenges Governors face in a variety of subject areas. The feedback from these sessions has been extremely positive, and we plan to expand this offer over time. Please check our website in this respect.

We have also resurrected our E-Mail Newsletter, and this will be circulated as widely as possible. Governors are encouraged to sign up with the BGA to ensure that they receive their copy. We hope this will inform Governors of the work of the Association and provide information about current developments in school governance. If anyone has any ideas or material that they think we should be talking about then please feel free to contact us.

We too believe in the principle of self-improvement. All member organisations are entitled to nominate potential candidates for membership of the BGA Executive. We are anxious to build on this and widen the scope of experience. We want to encourage wider participation. If you feel that you have the skills and would like to support the work of governing bodies in the Borough, then please feel free to contact the BGA through the website, or speak to me or any of my colleagues about more active involvement.

We remain committed to partnership working. Members of the BGA Executive Committee have continued to promote and represent the views of Governors at the Schools Forum, Barnsley Alliance Board and the Children and Young People's Trust Executive Group. This work will continue for as long as you as individual members want to see this happening.

Recommendations

That the report be accepted and noted.

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