



BARNSELY
GOVERNORS
ASSOCIATION

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Working for Barnsley Governors

JANUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER

We hope you are all keeping well.

UPDATE

Priorities for governors

Risk management and safeguarding.

Governors need to check that their Covid-19 risk assessment is updated regularly and put on their school's website.

Safeguarding is more important than ever, whether pupils are in school or learning remotely at home. Check your policies are fit for purpose and are being implemented assiduously.

Staff and pupil wellbeing

Are your staff being protected from unwanted parental evaluation of their lessons on Teams? Are they able to access HR support, CPD, time with their own children? Our staff are our most precious asset and we have a duty of care to them. Schools in Barnsley are open to critical workers' children, who have been attending in ever increasing numbers; this can have an impact on staffing capacity and staff wellbeing. Vulnerable children should be encouraged to attend school in person.

What arrangements has your school made to support different groups of pupils, for example SEND pupils, with home learning?

Remote learning

Schools are expected to be able to offer immediate access to remote learning to pupils. CPD and IT support is available to schools across Barnsley, as is advice about the provision of laptops and access to Wi-Fi.

Each school knows the best offer for its pupils, whether that is live lessons, recorded lessons or a mixture of digital and non-digital provision; pupils should be provided with good or better teaching of a quality curriculum with feedback. As a governor how are you monitoring your school's offer? How is pupil attendance at on-line learning being checked, and how is absence being followed up? What evidence have you been given about pupil progress? We all have a duty to ensure every effort is being made to mitigate the disadvantages

that our children may be experiencing during the pandemic. Much courageous leadership has already been shown and staff in many schools in Barnsley are already rising successfully to these challenges; there is help and support in the borough if your school needs it.

Relationships with parents

It's difficult for parents too! When staff work in partnership with parents and carers, acknowledge each other's challenges and provide timely and useful information, everything works better! What can governors do to help?

Support your staff and senior leaders!

Next BGA Training opportunity:

Building an emotionally intelligent governance team

Tuesday 9th February 2021 at 6.30pm via Zoom

led by Alan Richards (NLG and Chair of HCAT)

This session is an online interactive review of why it's important to build an effective and Emotionally Intelligent team. "Leadership is not domination. It's the art of persuading people to work towards a common goal" – Daniel Goleman

More details and booking can be found here:-

[Building an emotionally intelligent governance team](#)

Next Forum

The BGA is organising further Forums in 2021. These Forums are open, free of charge, to all governors and trustees of Barnsley schools.

On **Tuesday 2nd March 2021 at 6.15pm** we will be examining how governors monitor and oversee all aspects of their school

The Forum will be on Zoom and you can book here:- [Spring Forum](#)

Please let us know if you have new governors who would like to be included on our mailing list by contacting admin@barnsleyga.org

BGA Website - www.barnsleyga.org



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