

We are delighted to provide governors in Darlington with our new comprehensive training programme. Each term our programme includes a briefing for all governors and core training on Ofsted inspections, induction for new governors and keeping children safe in education, as well as new courses.

FREE: Governor Briefing

The briefing is attended by the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and includes updates on local and national education and governance developments, the Local Authority papers for governing body meetings and governor training information. There is also the opportunity for governors to share information and discuss topical issues affecting Darlington schools.

Core training - Induction for new governors

This comprehensive session is an excellent opportunity for newly appointed governors to develop an understanding of their role, how governing bodies work and aims to provide governors with knowledge, skills, and confidence.

Core training - Preparing for Ofsted

This essential course will help governors develop their understanding of the inspection process, what Ofsted requires of the school and governing body and the evidence on which inspectors base their judgements. Governors will learn how to ask appropriate questions of the headteacher and senior staff, as part of their role in holding leaders to account.

Core training - FREE: Keeping Children Safe in Education

An opportunity to keep up to date with the latest guidance to understand the roles and responsibilities of all those involved in safeguarding. Governors will be equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to monitor the effectiveness and impact of safeguarding arrangements in school.

Autumn 2023

FREE: Governor Briefing	Wednesday 13 September, 6pm to 7.30pm	Tony Murphy Assistant Director Education and Inclusion
Preparing for Ofsted	Wednesday 27 September, 1pm and 6pm	Jane Edminson, Service Improvement Lead Newcastle City Council
NEW: Working together to improve attendance	Tuesday 10 October, 1pm and 6pm	Kelly-Ann Reay, Early Help Co-Ordinator Darlington Borough Council
Induction for new Governors	Thursday 19 October, 5.30pm to 7.30pm	Jane Edminson, Service Improvement Lead Newcastle City Council
FREE and UPDATED: Keeping Children Safe in Education	Thursday 9 November, 1pm and 6pm	Darlington Borough Council Education Safeguarding Officer
NEW: Dealing with complaints	Tuesday 14 November, 1pm and 6pm	Barry Piercy Governance Consultant
FREE and UPDATED: Keeping Children Safe in Education	Thursday 14 December, 1pm and 6pm	Darlington Borough Council Education Safeguarding Officer

NEW: Dealing with complaints

From time to time governors may need to deal with a complaint. This course is designed to help broaden your understanding of the procedure to be followed and the role governors play. We will also look at the recent Best Practice guidance from the Department for Education and how that may impact on your schools approach. Please bring along a copy of your schools current Complaints Policy. Please note this training will be delivered in person at the Town Hall.

NEW: Working together to improve attendance

Updated guidance is now published by the DFE for 2023-2024. What does this mean for schools and the governing body? How can schools identify, prevent and intervene early to remove barriers to school attendance? For families where absences are persistent or severe, how can we target support to work together to reengage children back into education?



Spring 2024

FREE: Governor Briefing	Wednesday 17 January, 6pm to 7.30pm	Tony Murphy Assistant Director Education and Inclusion
Preparing for Ofsted	Tuesday 30 January, 1pm and 6pm	Jane Edminson, Service Improvement Lead Newcastle City Council
NEW: Exclusions	Tuesday 6 February, 1pm and 6pm	Dianne Gage, Inclusion Lead Officer Darlington Borough Council
Induction for new governors	Tuesday 13 February, 5.30 to 7.30pm	Jane Edminson, Service Improvement Lead Newcastle City Council
NEW: Governor role in Improvement planning	Tuesday 5 March, 1pm and 6pm	Barry Piercy Governance Consultant
FREE: Keeping Children Safe in Education	Thursday 14 March, 1pm and 6pm	Darlington Borough Council Education Safeguarding Officer
NEW: Early Help Assessment	Tuesday 26 March, 1pm and 6pm	Kelly-Ann Reay, Early Help Co-Ordinator Darlington Borough Council

NEW: Governors role in school improvement planning

This course will focus on the core function Setting Strategic Direction. We will explore and share experiences around the involvement of Governors in School Improvement planning and evaluation. We will look at how that helps Governors to monitor progress using elements of the School Improvement Plan. We will also look at Ofsted expectations and ways to evidence the role Governors play. By developing a clear role in school improvement planning Governors will be well placed to hold leaders to account and be more confident. Please bring along a copy of your current School Improvement Plan.

NEW: Exclusions

Understanding Permanent Exclusions and Suspensions Guidance incorporating regulation changes that have applied to all schools and academies since September 2022. A session on understanding the role of the GB, legalities around Permanent Exclusions and Suspensions, how to support schools and senior leaders and actions that should be considered prior to, during and after pupil discipline committee or hearing.

NEW: Early Help Assessment

Early Help Assessments provide a standardised and coordinated approach for practitioners across agencies and services and is designed to ensure that children, young people and their families receive the right support at an early stage before their needs escalate. Upon completion of this training, you will understand the expectation that schools and other partner agencies can initiate and lead Early Help Assessments and how the Framework can be used to support families to bring about change or potentially evidence the need for further statutory involvement.

Summer 2024

NEW: Holding to account	Tuesday 23 April, 1pm and 6pm	Barry Piercy Governance Consultant
FREE: Governor Briefing	Wednesday 24 April, 6pm to 7.30pm	Tony Murphy Assistant Director Education and Inclusion
Preparing for Ofsted	Tuesday 30 April, 1pm and 6pm	Jane Edminson, Service Improvement Lead Newcastle City Council
Induction for new governors	Wednesday 22 May, 5.30 to 7.30pm	Jane Edminson, Service Improvement Lead Newcastle City Council
NEW: SEND and Alternative Education	Tuesday 11 June, 1pm and 6pm	Anne Davison, SEND and Inclusion Advisory Lead Darlington Borough Council
FREE: Keeping Children Safe in Education	Thursday 6 June, 1pm and 6pm	Darlington Borough Council Education Safeguarding Officer

NEW: Holding to account

Holding to account is designed to support governors to consider how they can best hold leaders to account in each of their key roles. The focus will be on the core function; Create Robust Accountability. We will explore opportunities both within Governing Body & Committee meetings as well as on monitoring visits to school and consider how best to evidence this to demonstrate a proper discharge of responsibility by governors. We will look at questioning skills. Please bring along a copy of your current School Improvement Plan. Please note this training will be delivered in person at the Town Hall.

Times

All our training is offered with the choice of attending from 1pm to 2.30pm or 6pm to 7.30pm on the same date unless otherwise stated.

Delivery and Venue

The majority of our termly briefings and training sessions will be held virtually via Teams, unless otherwise stated in the course description. Delivery arrangements may be subject to change and will be confirmed ahead of each event.

NEW: Send and Alternative Education

This session will cover the practices and national and regional policies that governors should be aware of with regards to pupils with additional needs. There are many upcoming changes and so Governors who have already done training may want to consider this a refresher course.

Bookings

If your school has not purchased our annual training programme, courses can be accessed on a pay as you go basis at £75 per governor per course attended. Please discuss with your school before booking.