



For a better future

Agenda Item	Action Table - LGC Meeting 11 February 2026	Person Responsible
1	Complete safer recruitment checks for new parent governor	Fiona (School Office)
1	Provide access to Governor Hub for new parent governor once DBS complete	Fiona/Clerk
4	Sign minutes via Governor Hub	Chair
6	Meet with prospective co-opted governor and report back	Chair
8	Review wellbeing support for Year 1 children finding phonics transition pressured	HT
8	Communicate decision on banning phones/photos at school events to parents (Via letter, home school agreement, and other channels)	HT
13	Complete linked role monitoring visits	All governors
16	Prepare IDSR review presentation for next meeting	HT



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SCHOOL GOVERNING COMMITTEE MEETING on Wednesday 11th February 2026 at 7pm via Teams

		18 Sep 2025	19 th Nov 2025	11 th Feb 2026
Governor	Governor Type			
Romeena Ahmed	Co-opted governor	Y	Y	Y
Jo Ball (HT)	Headteacher	Y	Y	Y
Michael Dobner (Chair)	Co-opted governor	Y	Y	Y
Emma Lad (Clerk)	Clerk	Y	Y	Y
Sinead Parmar	Parent governor	Apologies	Y	Y
Ricki Rajah	Co-opted governor	Y	Y	Y
Safina Shan	Staff (Support) Governor	Y	Apologies	Apologies
In attendance				
Mrs Wharton	Phonics presentation		Y	
Ms Syeda Khartoon	Prospective staff governor		Y	Apologies
Mr Carl Clarke	Prospective parent governor			Y

Governor (G) challenge is highlighted in yellow Governor actions are highlighted in *italics*

Please see Appendix A: Discussion from Governor Hub ahead of the meeting

Meeting started 7pm

KEY:	Approval	Information	For feedback/questions	Action
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No	ITEM	Person responsible
1.	Welcome, apologies and consent The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. The meeting was quorate. Ms Khartoon and Ms Shan sent apologies.	



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	The new parent governor was welcomed to the meeting. The following will be put in place: <table><tr><td><i>Complete safer recruitment checks for new parent governor</i></td></tr><tr><td><i>Carl to speak to the school office regarding documentation for safer recruitment checks</i></td></tr><tr><td><i>Provide access to Governor Hub for new parent governor once DBS complete</i></td></tr><tr><td><i>Sign minutes via Governor Hub</i></td></tr><tr><td><i>Meet with prospective co-opted governor and report back</i></td></tr></table>	<i>Complete safer recruitment checks for new parent governor</i>	<i>Carl to speak to the school office regarding documentation for safer recruitment checks</i>	<i>Provide access to Governor Hub for new parent governor once DBS complete</i>	<i>Sign minutes via Governor Hub</i>	<i>Meet with prospective co-opted governor and report back</i>	Fiona (School Office)/ Clerk/ Carl/ Chair
<i>Complete safer recruitment checks for new parent governor</i>							
<i>Carl to speak to the school office regarding documentation for safer recruitment checks</i>							
<i>Provide access to Governor Hub for new parent governor once DBS complete</i>							
<i>Sign minutes via Governor Hub</i>							
<i>Meet with prospective co-opted governor and report back</i>							
2.	Notification of any other business (Chair, HT and Clerk to be informed 48 hours before the meeting) There was no notification of any other business.						
3.	Conflict of interest with agenda items to be declared There were no further conflicts of interest to those on Governor Hub.						
4.	Minutes of the last meeting for approval and matters arising <i>The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting and will be signed via Governor Hub by the Chair.</i> Matters arising (appendix B)	Chair					
5.	Communication from the Trust • Trustees' minutes						
6.	Chairs update a) The Chair has visited the school regularly. b) There have been three complaints: one to Lawrence Haines, one to another school in the Trust, and a third complaint pending investigation. The Trust is exploring earlier intervention and external investigation processes due to expected increases in AI-generated complaints. Current process: complaint to HT first, then Chair of Governors if unresolved. c) Governors' recruitment and induction The Chair is speaking to a possible co-opted governor. d) Governor effectiveness, confirmations and training - to be completed by all governors						



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	<i>The Iftar event will take place on 27th February (Friday) at 5:30pm. All governors are welcome. There has been a local donation this year which will significantly increase the provision.</i>	All governors
7.	Finance report – sent via Governor Hub Overview of the approved budget The HT updated on the increase in the budget grant from the DfE which has allowed for an increased budget to cover premises and maintenance works. There are also CIF bids being processed at present. The outcome will be known at the end of March 2026. The additional funds have been spent on: • The part time teacher in the Seedlings. The role is also going to support children with SEND across the school. • Updates to the library • Gemma Williamson is supporting with the refurbishment of the playground. A similar system to OPAL playtime is being implemented. £8,000 has been allocated for playground refurbishment. The school will create an OPAL-style play-based provision (not the formal OPAL programme) with multiple zones allowing children free movement across the playground. Savings: • In gas and electric • Move to RM for IT services. Further spending: • The school is going to have a swimming pool temporarily on site to allow children to swim. The total cost is approximately £10,000 (including electricity installation costs) versus £7,000 for current provision. The pool will be located where the portal cabin used to be, next to the climbing frame. It includes qualified teaching staff and aims for a 70% better success rate. Implementation will be July 2026. Years 4, 5, and 6 will primarily access it, with potential extension to Years 3 and possibly 2. This allows children to access swimming across multiple years rather than one tokenistic term and maximizes curriculum time as children won't lose entire afternoons to travel. G: What year groups will be participating? HT: We are reviewing at present, but we are hoping for year 4, 5 and 6 to be able to access. • There are additional funds for digital upgrades which will include the purchase 35 Chromebooks to build technical capacity. • There are fridges being brought for the kitchen. • Teachers and support staff pay is still under review. There will be an update forecast next month, and the update will be brought to the next meeting. Two staff maternities will have a financial impact on the budget.	



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8.	Headteacher report a) Safeguarding There are families that are requiring a large amount of support from the school. b) Premises The drainage soakaways underneath the school represent a major premises concern requiring thousands of pounds in expenditure. Professional advice indicates the work must be completed as a whole project rather than piecemeal to prevent the problem recurring. A potential CIF bid application will be considered after the outcome of the fence bid. c) Pupil numbers. Actual v budget The school is oversubscribed for Reception which is amazing as locally schools do not have enough children. The Chair updated that the school was praised at the AGM for the work completed. d) Children's attendance The HT explained that persistent absence was below national average but due to the lack of phones in the school there was an impact on attendance. There were also influxes of Flu A which has meant attendance dropped to nearly 60%. This is not the usual attendance for the school and the reasons for absence are valid due to illness. However, attendance is now 96.6% consistently at present which is above national average. The attendance team, led by Nicola and Nick (pastoral), form a formidable duo with proactive approaches including door-knocking to support families. The HT has weekly data reviews with the CEO. The persistent absence threshold is 90%. Chair: I am updated on attendance weekly and there is a vast improvement. HT: The team is completing a large amount of work to ensure children are in school and attending. G: How many sessions does a child have to miss for parents to be contacted? HT: We look at below 90% of attendance. That is easier at the beginning of the term. With good attendance the persistent absentee rate will reduce over the year. There is a review with the CEO weekly and attendance is a large part of the discussion. e) Inspection Data Summary report (IDSR) The HT is attending training to fully understand the report and the impact on the school inspection process. There will be further updates at future meetings. f) Curriculum update	
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The lead is ensuring the curriculum is working effectively and supporting all subjects to be taught effectively across the school. An area for improvement is the feedback from teachers to children. The Purple pen is the child's feedback pen, and it is not being evidenced enough in books. The leadership team conducted a deep dive using triangulation methodology (pupil voice, lesson observations, and book scrutiny) to identify this rapid improvement area. The rapid improvement area is the feedback and improvements for children being continually utilised.

G: How is the phonics implementation working?

HT: It is on track for year one, but the teachers are hoping for further improvements this year. The Reception children are making accelerated progress. It is exciting to see the impact of the phonics project on the children. It is taking longer to teach and there is now reading sessions included. The Phonics Hub are funding the scheme, and a review has been carried out. They are very pleased with our progress, and they have recommended next steps including training for TA's.

G: The Phonics lead has trained the reception staff, have the year one teachers been trained as well?

HT: The phonics lead is based in Year 1 supporting vulnerable learners. All staff received training in INSET (from nursery to Year 6) to understand the programme's rationale and impact. The English Hub conducted a review and confirmed the school is in a very good place, recommending additional TA training as next steps. Parent training sessions have also been delivered. Reception shows accelerated progress with the new scheme. Year 1 maintains last year's standards despite 25% SEND, which represents successful implementation. Some Year 1 children are finding the transition pressured, and the HT will review wellbeing support with teaching staff.

G: There has also been training for parents. There has been an impact for the children at home, and it has enabled them to thrive.

G: There are some children in year one who are finding it quite a lot of pressure, but it is making an improvement.

HT: Year one is a pressured year, but I will speak to the staff.

HT

g) Achievement

Bridget Philipson Secretary of State for Education has sent a letter praising the incredible SATs results for the combined score.

The governors congratulated the school on the achievement.

h) Pastoral report – comparison report across the schools

The offer at the school is amazing and there is constant work to support families.

There are more families who require support at the school than ever before.

There are hot meals being delivered on a Wednesday for free to support vulnerable children. There is enough food for parents to also have some food. The school staff have completed their food hygiene certificate to support.

i) Behaviour monitoring



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The HT explained that there were no suspensions last term but since the return after Christmas there has been new children in the school and there are some issues with the transition. There have been two suspensions for two children.

All behaviour incidents are on Arbor. If there are any incidents of bullying, they are supporting in the school. Rest and Restore is working very well and allows for time to review any issues and improve interactions.

G: Have the issues with year four been impacted by the support?

HT: There have been lots of changes for the year group over their time in the school. There has been a support package put in place, and it is impacting positively. There continues to be regular check ins.

G: Of the 14, are there repeat incidents?

The HT explained there have been 14 incidents which children have felt are racist in Autumn 2. The school uses scripted conversations from the behaviour policy to educate children, achieving understanding by the end of discussions. The school is proud that children are confident to report incidents, viewing this as positive cultural development. External agencies including police and Watford FC (workshop scheduled for March) support this work. Children sign statements acknowledging their understanding.

j) HIP visit feedback and progress against actions.

The HT updated on the progress across the school on writing. The CPD which has taken place is impacting positively. The feedback is the next area of rapid improvement.

k) Staff attendance

The staff have been off with the same illnesses as the children. Attendance protocols are always followed.

l) SEND update

The school is working effectively supporting children with SEND. There is a significant rise in numbers in key stage one. The SENCo received a Shining Communication Award.

m) School challenges

The HT updated on a hate post on Facebook from a non-parent community member. The content was obscene and deeply upsetting. The HT immediately contacted the police and wrote to the community affirming the school's values. The individual posted the school's letter generating further hate, then called the school questioning why it was 'being made into a big thing'. Police investigated and provided visible presence on World Hijab Day as a precautionary measure. The Local Authority provided significant wellbeing support to the HT. The HT prepared a full lockdown procedure the night before World Hijab Day as a precautionary measure. All staff were briefed on procedures. The day proceeded peacefully with no incidents, though fewer children wore hijabs than usual. The Muslim community expressed gratitude for the school's continued commitment despite the challenges.



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	The Chair congratulated the school on the way it was handled, and the parent governors thanked the school for the management of the situation. n) Photos at events The HT explained that there are children within the school who cannot have their photo taken. This decision addresses critical safeguarding concerns where certain children cannot be photographed due to serious safety risks. The school cannot police partial restrictions by year group without making vulnerable children identifiable. Even with bans, some parents have violated instructions, leaving no option but complete prohibition. This aligns with emerging trends nationally for no phones to be used in schools. The decision prioritises the safety of vulnerable children over parental preferences. <i>The governors unanimously supported the HT in her decision to ban phones at school events. The HT will now ensure there are adequate reminders for the school community.</i>	HT																
9.	Stakeholder engagement Staff survey results Workload was identified again as an issue. The HT explained that she has worked with school staff to review how the staff can be supported. Leadership was praised for their support but there were some contradictions in the results.																	
10.	Policy tracker review and policies due a) <u>Trust policies approved</u> – refer to Every b) <u>School policies</u> – refer to Every <table><tr><td><u>Behaviour Policy</u></td><td>October 2027</td></tr><tr><td><u>Business Continuity Plan</u></td><td>October 2026</td></tr><tr><td><u>Collective Act of Worship Policy</u></td><td>October 2028</td></tr><tr><td><u>Equality Statement including accessibility plan</u></td><td>October 2026</td></tr><tr><td><u>Health and Safety (Local) Policy</u></td><td>November 2026</td></tr><tr><td><u>Home Learning Policy</u></td><td>January 2029</td></tr><tr><td><u>Home School agreement</u></td><td>January 2027</td></tr><tr><td><u>Marking, Feedback and Presentation Policy</u></td><td>January 2027</td></tr></table> The HT was congratulated on managing all the workload with the internet issues.	<u>Behaviour Policy</u>	October 2027	<u>Business Continuity Plan</u>	October 2026	<u>Collective Act of Worship Policy</u>	October 2028	<u>Equality Statement including accessibility plan</u>	October 2026	<u>Health and Safety (Local) Policy</u>	November 2026	<u>Home Learning Policy</u>	January 2029	<u>Home School agreement</u>	January 2027	<u>Marking, Feedback and Presentation Policy</u>	January 2027	
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11.	Risk register																	



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	The incident with Facebook has been recognised by the Trust.							
12.	Training Governor training booked /to be booked/ completed with National College – up to date							
13.	Governor monitoring reports PE/ Safeguarding/ H&S completed by the Chair. <i>Governors were reminded to complete their linked roles.</i>	All governors						
14.	Clerks update – available via Governor Hub.							
15.	Any other business – none requested at the beginning of the meeting.							
16.	Future Dates (See supporting documentation) Next meeting: IDSR review <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Date</th><th>Start</th><th>Location</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Wed 1 Jul 2026</td><td>09:00</td><td>school</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Date	Start	Location	Wed 1 Jul 2026	09:00	school	
Date	Start	Location						
Wed 1 Jul 2026	09:00	school						
17.	Items to be sent to CEO, Chair of Trustees and Trust Governance professional by the clerk – none							
	Meeting ended: 8.41pm							



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Appendix B: Discussion via Governor Hub ahead of the meeting:

Emma Lad 2 days ago

Hello all,

Please see a link to the minutes from the recent Annual General Meeting:

[Inclusive MAT AGM minutes 29.01.26.pdf](#)

Have a lovely evening

Emma

Everyone

Emma Lad 2 days ago

Hello all,

A reminder of the next meeting **this Wednesday, 11th February 2026 at 7pm** [via Teams](#)

You can access documentation here for the meeting: [3. 11.02.26](#)

Please review and action the matters arising ahead of the meeting:

Date	Start	Meeting	Location
Wed 1 Jul 2026	09:00	Laurence Haines School Governing Committee	school

Thank you

Emma

Everyone

Michael Dobner 4 days ago

Thank you Jo for a very comprehensive report, I just have a few questions.

QUESTIONS

Safeguarding

How many Young Carers have we found?

4 domestic abuse, how many families?

Premises

Fire doors dropped, is this covered in snagging?

Numbers

Brilliant news on numbers especially following gloom from Trust AGM on future numbers.

Attendance

Persistent absence, what can we do to improve this?

Curriculum Update



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Pupil voice, is this from every year?

Phonics

Has the ongoing assessment shown the improvement we hope for?

Pastoral Update

Can you tell us about the support from the Salvation Army, is it as good as with the previous captain?

Staff absence

Could you explain the support to three staff and what is the criteria for putting staff on support plans?

School Challenges

Really pleased with the success of Hijab Day, do we have any similar plans for Iftar?

Mike

Everyone

- **Jo Ball**

Safeguarding

How many Young Carers have we found?

We have 13 Young Carers

4 domestic abuse, how many families?

4 different families

Premises

Fire doors dropped, is this covered in snagging?

No this is a separate issue just through usage.

Numbers

Brilliant news on numbers especially following gloom from Trust AGM on future numbers.

Thank you. We are very pleased to be a first choice school for parents. Other local schools have had to reduce their PAN so this is a significant achievement.

Attendance

Persistent absence, what can we do to improve this?

The impact of the extended absence for illnesses and during the time we had no communication (Internet outage) was significant. Attendance is back up with some days peaking at nearly 98%. I am confident over time that the persistent absence percentage will go down however we will have a higher PA rate this year which we have to accept. Any children sitting outside of this are supported by our attendance team. We are consistently asking for evidence such as death certificates, appointment texts and letters to verify absences. I will do a piece of work that separates those children who had the illnesses at that time and which children have a low attendance which is not related – I can report this to governors

Curriculum Update

Pupil voice, is this from every year?

This was Year 1 to Year 6. Reception and Nursery are building a portfolio

Phonics

Has the ongoing assessment shown the improvement we hope for?

At the moment we are showing data which is consistent with last year. As we are in the implementation stage and only half way through the year, we are very pleased with this. We have some extremely promising outcomes in Reception with strong foundational skills evidence. Building on this strong start for the Reception children we will be seeing a decent improvement for achievement in the next academic year's phonics results.

Pastoral Update

Can you tell us about the support from the Salvation Army, is it as good as with the previous captain?

This relationship is growing and Nicola Furey has recently met with the new Captain. They have agreed to apply for the mayors fund which means that we will be able to offer parents food vouchers again.



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Staff absence

Could you explain the support to three staff and what is the criteria for putting staff on support plans?

This is detailed in the staff health and attendance policy. This kicks in when there are three self-certified sickness absences in a 6 month period; a continuous sickness absence of 10 working days or more; an absence that appears to have a recurring pattern. This triggers a meeting and an attendance improvement plan. This is guidance and leadership can implement a plan at anytime with good reason. These are separate to a support plan which is linked to meeting the Job description and teacher standards.

School Challenges

Really pleased with the success of Hijab Day, do we have any similar plans for Iftar?

We are pleased to be hosting our community Iftar again this year. It will be taking place on 27th Feb. We have had a local donation of money which will be put towards the food as well as our own budget that we set aside for the event. We will also be celebrating Holi soon and on Friday 13th February we will be doing a shared piece of learning for Lunar New Year.

2 days ago

Jo Ball 5 days ago

Have a look at this:

[Headteacher report Feb 2026.pptx](#)

Sorry - try this one.

Thanks

Everyone

Jo Ball 5 days ago

Have a look at this:

[3.11.02.26](#)

Hi Governors,

Please take a look in this folder for my HT report, staff survey analysis and the Trust Pastoral report. Health and Safety will be shared in the meeting. My apologies for late posting. Technology continues to be temperamental however we are seeing improvements.

I was also later than I wanted to be in sending out the parent vote for our new parent governor. That went out yesterday. I am hoping I will be able to at least share good news with you next week if not able to introduce our new team member. I look forward to seeing you in the meeting. If you have any questions regarding the reports, please do post on here as that saves us lots of time in the meeting.

Kind regards,

Jo

Everyone

- **Ricki Rajah**

Good afternoon Jo, I don't think the HT report has uploaded correctly. Would you mind checking this for us please?

5 days ago

Jo Ball 13 days ago

Have a look at this:

[Letters](#)

Dear Governors,

Some of you may already be aware that we received some really hateful comments yesterday. We were also made aware of a Facebook post with a screen shot of our School Letter sent yesterday. Thankfully the post was taken down quite quickly yesterday but the feeling remains - sadness that what has been such an amazing event has been



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tarnished by discrimination. As always we stand proud of the community, our vision and values. Please see attached, the letters which were sent out to families and staff today in response to what has happened.

Thank you for your support.

Jo

Everyone

Michael Dobner 13 days ago

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Attendance has continued to improve - seasonal coughs/colds/flu are the main reason for absence.

Whole school attendance today is 97.8%.

Termly attendance by registration form:

Registration Form	Present R/C: Marks (%)
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Year 6 Willow	98.5%
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Year 4 Pine	98.2%
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Reception Pear	97.3%
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Year 4 Palm	96.5%
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Year 2 Hazel	96.4%
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Year 3 Oak	96.2%
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Year 5 Beech	95.9%
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Year 5 Birch	95.2%
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Year 3 Yew	95.0%
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Year 2 Holly	94.3%
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Year 1 Elm	94.1%
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Year 6 Walnut	93.3%
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Year 1 Elder	91.4%
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Reception Plum	85.4%
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Everyone

Emma Lad 16 days ago

Hello all,

A reminder you are invited the Inclusive MAT Annual General Meeting, **this Thursday**, 29th January at 6pm [via Teams](#)

You can access the agenda and other documentation here: [2025](#)

Please let me know if you will be able to attend

Thank you

Emma

Everyone

Emma Lad 19 days ago

Weekly news round-up

Education Secretary speech at BETT UK conference



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This [speech](#) at BETT sets out the Education Secretary's priorities for the role of technology in education, focusing on how digital tools – including AI – can be used safely and effectively to improve outcomes, reduce workload and support teachers and leaders.

DfE: Attendance data

Latest [attendance data](#) up to 09 January 2026 shows the attendance rate (proportion of possible sessions attended) was 93.10% across all schools in the week commencing 05 January 2026.

Absence was 0.04 percentage points higher across all schools in the week commencing 05 January 2026 than in the equivalent week of the previous academic year. This reflects a decrease in authorised absence and an increase in unauthorised absence.

By school type, the absence rates across the week commencing 05 January 2026 were:

- 5.60% in state-funded primary schools (3.36% authorised and 2.24% unauthorised)
- 8.10% in state-funded secondary schools (4.51% authorised and 3.58% unauthorised)
- 13.35% in state-funded special schools (9.25% authorised and 4.11% unauthorised)

The attendance rate across the 2025/26 academic year to date was 93.36%.

Youth Sports Trust: Inclusion Live Week

Since 2022, the Youth Sports Trust has hosted [Inclusion Live Week](#) – a series of virtual webinars to help schools deliver meaningful and inclusive experiences for young people with SEND.

Inclusion Live 2026 will take place from 26–30 January 2026, featuring six webinars throughout the week.

1. Inspiring inclusion through major sporting events: Monday 26 January 2026, 15:30-16:30
2. Unlocking the power of school swimming for young people with SEND: Tuesday 27 January 2026, 15:30-16:30
3. Creating inclusive environments for neurodivergent young people: Wednesday 28 January 2026, 15:30-16:30
4. Embedding strength and balance in the daily lives of young people: Thursday 29 January 2026, 12:15-13:15
5. Designing an inclusive PE curriculum for every young person: Thursday 29 January 2026, 15:30-16:30
6. Creating sustainable enrichment opportunities for young people with SEND: Friday 30 January 2026, 12:15-13:15

You can sign up for the sessions [here](#).

The DfE has announced a £200 million investment to boost the expertise of teachers in supporting children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

The programme aims to provide all teachers with specialist training, focusing on early identification and evidence-based interventions. This move is a central pillar of the government's wider strategy to ensure more children with additional needs can thrive within mainstream settings [\[DfE\]](#).

Read Governor Hub's [article](#) to get to grips with how Ofsted will inspect the new evaluation area of inclusion in your school under the 2025 framework.

Join the national campaign for better school funding

This week, f40, the cross-party local authority campaign group, met to discuss how fairer funding could be secured for schools and trusts amidst the special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) crisis.

Ahead of the forthcoming Schools White Paper, the group is urging the government to ensure SEND reforms are backed by sufficient funding to enable implementation on the ground.

NGA has partnered with f40 to develop a model letter that governors and trustees can send to their local MP. If you would like to join the call to action, you can download the model letter [here](#).

For more information on the current state of the SEND system, read [NGA's recently published paper](#).

New DfE guidance on mobile phone policies



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The Department for Education (DfE) has announced new [non-statutory guidance for schools on the use of mobile phones](#). This comes amid growing concerns about the impact of mobile phones on children's wellbeing, alongside increasing calls to raise the minimum age for accessing social media platforms.

As part of this shift, Ofsted inspections will place greater emphasis on mobile phone use, with schools expected to demonstrate how effectively their mobile phone policies are implemented as part of their wider behavior management strategies.

The DfE has also launched a consultation on restricting children's use of social media, which could ultimately lead to a ban for children under the age of 16.

Education Secretary Bridget Phillipson stated: "We have been clear that mobile phones have no place in our schools but now we're going further through tougher guidance and stronger enforcement. Mobile phones have no place in schools. No ifs, no buts."

New parental complaints guidance published

New [guidance](#) has been published to address a sharp rise in parental complaints, with a focus on rebuilding trust and encouraging calmer, more constructive dialogue between parents and schools. Published by Parentkind, the guidance was developed in collaboration with the DfE, Ofsted and 13 education bodies, including NGA, in response to growing concerns about escalating disputes and abuse directed at school staff.

The guidance sets out a five-step process to help parents raise concerns respectfully and at the appropriate level, from classroom issues to whole-school matters. It urges families to reflect on whether an issue is feedback, a concern or a formal complaint, and discourages aggressive behaviour, personal accusations, unnecessary escalation and the use of AI to generate complaints.

The guidance aims to help "reset the relationship" between parents and schools ahead of the upcoming Schools White Paper which will set out planned improvements to the complaints system.

Updated AI safety standards for schools

Speaking at the UK AI for Education Summit and Bett UK Conference, the Secretary of State for Education, Bridget Phillipson, announced [strengthened safety standards](#) for generative artificial intelligence (AI) products used in schools. The updates are aimed at developers and suppliers and cover critical areas including mental health and cognitive development.

The government also announced a £23 million investment to expand the use of AI and edtech in education. The four-year pilot will see more than 1,000 schools and colleges involved and will begin in September.



LAURANCE HAINES
SCHOOL

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4.	Appendix A: Matters arising from 19.11.25
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	Action	Person Responsible
4	Follow up on communication to parents about new phonics language and report back via Governor Hub	HT - item 9
5	Sign minutes via Governor Hub	Chair - ongoing
7	Speak to possible parent governor applicants and recommend they speak to the chair	HT/Chair - item 7
7	Complete National College training (Governor Effectiveness and Governor Compliance modules) for Single Central Record	All governors - item 13
7	Send reminders to governors to complete mandatory training	Clerk - item 13
7	Deliver training on the Inspection Data Summary Report (IDSR) at the next meeting	HT - item 9
9	Arrange press coverage of Families First Award with Watford Observer	HT – completed
9	Include SEF summary with future Headteacher reports to show cycle of progress	HT - item 8
11	Upload behaviour policy to Governor Hub for approval once internet issues resolved	HT - item 10
14	Book monitoring visit on SEND	All governors - item 13
17	Review with leadership team options to add to Arbor to help other parents with funding trips and report back	HT – completed
18	Ensure Trustees are aware of Families First Award	Clerk – completed

Items to be raised with Trust responses:

Ensure Trustees are aware of Families First Award - completed