



We would like to invite you to contact **Governor Services** with news, information or details of events for governors.

Email: governor.services@gloucestershire.gov.uk or phone 01452 425313. Publication dates for future editions can be found in the 'Noticeboard' section below. Chairs are asked to share the contents of this e-bulletin with their governing body.

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Issue: 85

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Must reads and action items

LA/GGA Meeting - 9th May - POSTPONED

The meeting due to be held on Monday 9th May 2011 will not now go ahead due to lack of numbers. Please look at future editions of What's Up Gov? for details of the rearranged date.

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Gloucestershire Schools Forum - biennial elections

URGENT: The closing date for receipt of nominations from governors of primary and secondary schools/academies is **5.00 pm on Friday 13th May 2011**.

See this link for details <http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=14396>

Nominations, which should include a short supporting statement, should be sent/mailed to Alison Wantenaar alison.wantenaar@gloucestershire.gov.uk 01452 425094

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Audit Report

During 2010/11 Internal Audit visited eight secondary schools and twelve primary schools to undertake themed audits. A summary report has been prepared and is now available to all LA maintained secondary, primary and special schools. The report covers important areas such as procurement. Please read the report by following the above link and take any action as appropriate.

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Secondary School Forecasts 2011/12 - 2017/18 - re-issue

There was an error on the Planning area forecast sheet (page 6 of the secondary forecasting package) which was sent to you on 7th April. The information was corrected on 15th April but if you downloaded it before then please see the revised version. We're sorry for any inconvenience. Next year this package will be available as part of an Additional Services package - free to LA maintained schools and traded for academies.

The individual school forecasts are available on Securenet in the General Transfer Community using filename 916xxxx_916nnnn_SECFCast.pdf where nnnn is your school DCSF number. If you have any queries contact the Office Manager on 01452 425329 or email: isst@gloucestershire.gov.uk.

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GCC & Schools Pension Fund Contribution Rates

The rates for schools included in the GCC pool for 'pension fund employer contribution rates' are:

From:	1st April 2011/12	22.9%
	1st April 2012/13	23.9%
	1st April 2013/14	24.9%

For more information contact Jackie Bailey at the County Council on 01452 425916.

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Special offer - Attention Small Schools

Limited funding is still available for small schools in England who are applying for ICT Mark accreditation and will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Successful schools will receive a £200 discount from their final invoice. To qualify for this offer the school must have less than 100 pupils. 39 schools have so far benefited from the Small Schools Initiative. There's more at: www.naace.co.uk/ictmark or email: ictmark@naace.co.uk.

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New Works in Progress Form

Please see the new Works in Progress form (Risk and Insurance forms) which can be completed online and returned by email. If you have a paper copy of the insurance guide, this new Works in Progress form replaces the form on pages 10-11 of the paper guide. Contact Kay Brown for more information on 01452 425883, email: kay.brown@gloucestershire.gov.uk.

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Information items

Looked After Children - independent oversight of care planning

Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs) oversee care planning for all looked after children. They chair 'LAC Review Meetings' which are held at regular periods and should have the contribution of all key people involved with the child. If an IRO identifies concerns through this process, it is their responsibility to notify social care professionals about the concerns.

If these concerns are not adequately addressed in a reasonable timescale then the IRO is empowered to challenge the local authority operational services up to and including the Director of Children's Services and the Chief Executive. Without an adequate resolution the IRO can choose to refer the issue to an outside body, CAFCASS (Children and Family Court Arbitration and Support Service) for their oversight.

Government introduced new guidance on 1st April 2011 strengthening the IRO role, and demanding more in-depth oversight than previously required. See the Bulletin Board for the full Dispute Resolution Process Protocol or the GCC website [Dispute Resolution Process page](#) which links to a flow chart giving a simple visual explanation of the decision-making process when an IRO is in dispute with local authority operational services.

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[KS2 Assessment Monitoring Visits](#)

The latest QCDA information and guidance for schools on monitoring visits for the Key Stage 2 National Curriculum tests is now available on the bulletin board. Further information and support, including the 2011 QCDA KS2 ARA can be found in the [GlosEd section of Schoolsnet](#) under Curriculum Support/ statutory requirements.

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[SEN Area-Based Grant to support staff on FE and HE courses](#)

Unfortunately this funding is no longer available. Please make your staff aware, particularly your SENCo. For more information contact Brian Bartlett at the County Council on 01452 425431.

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[Education Business Partnership Services, Work Experience, Work-related Learning and Enterprise](#)

A clarification of the new arrangements from 1st April 2011, following the publication of Professor Alison Wolf's Report on Vocational Education, and the recent government announcements relating to Work-related Learning and Enterprise.

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[New Health and Safety Policy Document Template available for schools to use and adopt](#)

Click on above link to view on GCC website.

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[Managing Health and Safety in Schools - June Training Seminars](#)

The council's SHE Unit is offering a seminar on managing health and safety in schools aimed at head teachers, business managers and governors. It will cover effective and sensible risk management approaches. Two dates available: 21st and 23rd June. Cost £60 including refreshments and buffet lunch. See the [SHE training webpage](#) for full details or click [here](#). For more information and to book contact Neil Chatten, SHE Unit on 01452 426145, email neil.chatten@gloucestershire.gov.uk.

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[SFVS - Schools Financial Value Standards](#)

Joint response to the SFVS consultation questions from Gloucestershire County Council. The link below takes you to the DfE consultation page:
<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/adminandfinance/financialmanagement/a0075378/schools-financial-value-standard-sfvs-consultation>

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Consultation

[SEN green paper 'Support and Aspiration'](#)

The SEN green paper 'Support and Aspiration' is now out for consultation. We would like to invite you to contribute to our collective response on behalf of the county. A summary of the proposed consultation process in the county, an outline of the proposals in the green paper from the DfE and a copy of the consultation questions can be found at the above link.

You may choose to simply respond by email to nicola.culley@gloucestershire.gov.uk who is collating all the responses. There are 59 consultation questions in total so it may be appropriate to select the few that are the most important for you or your organisation and concentrate on those. **All responses will need to be received by 3rd June in order to allow time for collation and the drafting of the feedback.**

Alternatively, you may wish to attend one of the three sessions detailed below where there will be a briefing on the main points of the green paper, and the opportunity for some discussion. We will record people's comments which will contribute to a response from Gloucestershire. If you wish to attend one of these sessions please contact Nicola Culley at the above email or telephone 01452 425324.

Tuesday 17th May	17.00-18.30	Battledown Centre for Children and Families, Cheltenham
Thursday 19th May	15.00-16.30	Bownham Park, Rodborough, Stroud
Tuesday 24th May	14.00-15.30	Shire Hall Council Chamber, Gloucester

We do hope that you will feel able to contribute. This is an important opportunity for us all to influence the shape of SEN for the future.

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Noticeboard

Gloucestershire Governors' Association Meeting

Theme: Do Governing Bodies affect School Performance?

The final Open Meeting of the school year will be held on **Monday 13th June at 7pm in Shire Hall** (Westgate Street, Gloucester, GL1 2TP). The speaker will be Professor Chris James of Bath University. He has studied schools and their governance over a number of years. Most recently he looked at the relationship between school governing bodies and school performance. The results have been published ('The Hidden Givers'). Some fascinating conclusions are evident from Chris James' work.

If you wish to attend please contact Jennie Leighton on 01452 425846 or email: governor.services@gloucestershire.gov.uk to help us make appropriate arrangements.

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Clerks' Briefings - FAO Clerk to the Governors

Due to the low number of responses received from clerks, we have, unfortunately, had to make the decision to reduce the number of sessions down to 1, details of which are below.

Thursday 19th May 2011 Oxstalls Indoor Tennis Centre, Gloucester 1.30-3.00 pm

Please ensure that this information is urgently passed to your Clerk to Governors as soon as possible.

We will be holding a further round of briefings next academic year and hope to receive a better response in order for them to all go ahead. Please can clerks ensure that they look at our webpages or at this bulletin for information.

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Future publication dates of 'What's Up Gov?'

19th May 2011	7th July 2011
9th June 2011	21st July 2011
23rd June 2011	

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