



## LDBS SCHOOLS BULLETIN

December 2015

Please pass this bulletin on to all members of the leadership team,  
governors and Heads of RE / RE Co-ordinators

<http://schools.london.anglican.org/>

### Bulletin Contents

Message from Inigo Woolf and Liz Wolverson	1		
LDBS News	2-3	Admission	4
Congratulatory		Changes to Admission Arrangements 2017-18	
New RE Syllabus			
LDBS Safeguarding Policy		LDBS SCITT	5
Secondary Subject Network Meetings		Teaching London	
Valuing All God's Children			
RE & Collective Worship	3	Sir John Cass	5
RE Subject Leader Meetings		Sir John Cass Redcoat Secondary 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	
Fruits of the Spirit			
Governors and Governance	4	Grow Education Partners	6
Ofsted Update		Training and Development Programme	
Governor Training Programme			
		Reminders	7
		Secondary HT & Secondary DHT/AHT Meetings	
		EBacc Consultation	
		LDBS Newsletter	

### Message from Inigo Woolf and Liz Wolverson

*As we leave the "season of mists and mellow fruitfulness", we are celebrating a very fruitful day in November. On the 24<sup>th</sup> Tonnie Read, Head of St Mary Magdalene in Westminster, had a beautiful baby boy and on the same day Robert Bullett from our HR department became a father for the second time to another bouncing boy. We would like to wish both families well and to wish you all a restful and enjoyable Christmas as we celebrate the birth of another baby centuries ago.*



## LDBS News

### Congratulations

*We offer our congratulations to Christ Church Primary School, Brent who were rated Good on their most recent SIAMS inspection.*

### New RE Syllabus

We are very pleased to be able to place the first section of our [new RE Syllabus](#) onto our website. The units on the website so far are the 'World Faiths other than Christianity' units which cover one third of the syllabus. We hope to have the Christianity units and Foundation Stage units for Reception Classes available for the start of the Summer term. We will also be running a training day in the Summer term for all RE leaders, providing them with a clear overview of the syllabus and how to implement it within the context of their own school.

The syllabus has been written by a group of RE leaders from both the London and Southwark Dioceses: Shaun Burns (RE Adviser in Southwark), Lesley Prior (LDBS RE Adviser for Community Schools) and Jayne Pavlou (LDBS Adviser). We are indebted to these colleagues and the Headteachers of the schools who have willingly released staff without funding in order that their staff could be part of this important project.

Once the whole syllabus is complete we will provide clear guidance about its use, but in the meantime the units are available for schools on the [LDBS Website](#). Each unit of work has a cover page which provides the context for the work. We strongly recommend the following structure:

#### Key Stage 1

- pupils to be taught one six week unit on Judaism in both Year 1 and Year 2
- in addition, pupils should be taught one six week unit on another world faith in both Year 1 and Year 2 – the same world faith (eg one 6 week unit on Sikhism in Year 1 followed by the next 6 week unit on Sikhism in Year 2)

#### Key Stage 2

- one 6 week unit on Judaism
- 6 x 6 week units of the remaining 3 faiths not covered in KS1

We hope you and your staff will enjoy trialling these materials throughout the rest of this academic year. Further updates and details of training will be shared through the regular monthly bulletins. If you have any queries or helpful feedback please contact Jayne Pavlou at [Jayne.pavlou@london.anglican.org](mailto:Jayne.pavlou@london.anglican.org)

### Secondary Subject Network Meetings 2015/16

The pilot sessions for music, drama, art, computing and MFL proved a valuable opportunity for colleagues to share good practice and find out others' approaches to curriculum and qualification changes.

Each group agreed to continue to meet and dates will be circulated next term; Music is already arranged for Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February at Southwark Diocesan Board for Education.

Please email [kate.roskell@London.Anglican.org](mailto:kate.roskell@London.Anglican.org) if you would like to be added to the contact list and remember to state which subject or subjects you are interested in.

## LDBS Safeguarding Policy 2015

The new LDBS Safeguarding Policy for employees of the LDBS is available in the Document section of this Bulletin.

## Valuing All God's Children

The national day of training held this term for all SIAMS inspectors was centred around the report commissioned by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, in May 2014 '[Valuing All God's Children – Guidance for Church of England Schools on Challenging Homophobic Bullying](#)'. The report demonstrates the actions and commitment of the Church of England in trying to stamp out homophobic stereotyping and bullying of children and young people in our schools.

Headteachers may be particularly interested in looking at the appendices which include:

- Sample Policies eg Behaviour, Inclusion/Equalities and Antibullying
- Sample Bullying and Prejudice Related Incident Forms and Report Formats to Governors

## St. Jérôme Church of England Bilingual School on-track to open in 2016

St. Jérôme Church of England Bilingual School has taken another significant step towards opening. The school has secured change of use planning permission for its innovative proposal to turn the former Wickes House building on Station Road into a light, bright, modern primary school. News of the official approval means that the team are on track to start building work as planned early in the New Year.

To read the full press release about the school visit the Document Section of this Bulletin.



## RE & Collective Worship

### RE Subject Leader Meetings 2015/16

The 2015/16 meeting dates for RE subject leaders are below. To book a place on any of these events please email [valentina.colussi@london.anglican.org](mailto:valentina.colussi@london.anglican.org)

Date	Time	Title	Description
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2016	1.30 - 4.00pm	RE Subject Leaders Meeting	Effective Subject Leadership <b>Only 2 places left!</b>
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> May 2016	9.30 - 12.30pm	Fiona Moss ( <i>from RE today</i> )	British Values and SMSC
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> June 2016	1.30 - 4.00pm	RE Subject Leaders Meeting	Support with RE Self Evaluation and Action Planning

## Fruits of the Spirit

The National Society has produced the [Fruits of the Spirit Discussion Paper on Character Education](#) which we recommend as a very useful tool for governing bodies and leadership teams to consider over this coming year.



# Governors & Governance

## Governance Update

There have been a number of governance issues and developments which are bulleted below and detailed in full in the Document Section of the Bulletin.

- Annual Governance Statements
- HMCI Statement on Governance and Ofsted Survey
- [New Governance Handbook](#)
- DBS Checks for all Governors – coming soon

## Governors' Training Programme

The 2015-16 training programme has been constructed to reflect the key messages in government guidance. We will add sessions during the year, and would particularly draw your attention to the following sessions, all of which take place at London Diocesan House:

### AUTUMN SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Course Title
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2015	10 – 12pm	Making Sense of the Data: Changes to Performance Measures Including Progress 8 & an Introduction to RAISE Online - FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS ONLY
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December 2015	9 – 4pm	Safer Recruitment

### SPRING SCHEDULE

Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> January 2016	10 – 12pm	SIAMS : The Statutory Inspection of Anglican & Methodist Schools
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> February 2016	2 – 4pm	New Chairs of Governors
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> February 2016	1.30 – 4pm	Resolving Complaints
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2016	9 – 4pm	Safer Recruitment
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2016	10 – 4pm	Introduction to Being a Governor
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> March 2016	10 – 12pm	Monitoring Visits in Schools

Further details and an application form can be found on the [LDBS website](#).



# Admissions

## Changes to Admission Arrangements for 2017-18

Many schools have notified the LDBS of their admission policies for 2017-18, however there are a number who are proposing change but have not consulted with the LDBS prior to going to full consultation. If you are proposing change please email Penny Harvey as soon as possible on [penny.harvey@london.anglican.org](mailto:penny.harvey@london.anglican.org). You must have a governors meeting to determine your arrangements even if you do not plan any changes.

Full information on admission arrangements for 2017-18 is listed in the Document Section of this Bulletin.

## Teaching London

### Did you know.....

- ✓ that more than 65% of our trainees were Teaching Assistants before they joined us?
- ✓ that more than half of them are training in the school where they worked?
- ✓ that it now costs less for your school to train you?
- ✓ that there are grants, maintenance loans, bursaries and scholarships available to help meet your training costs?

No? Well why not come along to an Information Day and find out more. You can:

- ✓ Gain experience in a primary or secondary school near to you
- ✓ Learn about the role of a teacher
- ✓ Work closely with class teachers and pupils
- ✓ Learn about different teacher training options open to you
- ✓ Get advice about how to apply and get that interview

### Schedule of Information Events and Taster Days this term

DATE	COURSE	LOCATION	SPACES
2 <sup>nd</sup> - 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec 2015	School Experience Teaching Taster Secondary	Wren Academy N12	✓
2 <sup>nd</sup> - 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec 2015	School Experience Teaching Taster Primary	Christ Church CE Primary NW6	✓
7 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2015	School Experience One Day Taster Primary	St Peter's CE Primary E1W	✓
9 <sup>th</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2015	School Experience Teaching Taster Primary & Secondary	Cranford Community College TW5	✓
10 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2015	Information Event	LDBS SCITT NW6	✓

We are adding new dates all the time so please check our website [www.ldbsscitt-teacher-training.org](http://www.ldbsscitt-teacher-training.org) and follow us on Twitter @LDBSSCITT and Facebook for the latest information.

### Calling all Former Sir John Cass Redcoat Secondary Pupils

*Sir John Cass Redcoat Secondary School will be celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary over a series of events this year. To register your interest please visit the Document Section of this website to see the poster.*



# Grow Education Partners

Website: [www.grow-education.org](http://www.grow-education.org)



: @Grow\_Education

## Grow Training and Development Programme

The table below shows the training sessions provided in the Autumn term. You can select and register for any of these courses on the [Grow Website](http://www.grow-education.org) or by email to [grow@london.anglican.org](mailto:grow@london.anglican.org)

Subject area	Course Title	Date(s)
NQT Programme	Learning Measuring Through Problem Solving	Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2015
Literacy	Day 1: Fiction	Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> January 2016
	Day 2: Non-fiction	Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2016
	Developing Spoken Language; promoting thinking skills	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> March 2016
Middle Leaders	Guided Reading	Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> April 2016
	Day 1	Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2016
	Day 2	Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> March 2016
	Day 3	Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2016
RE	An Introduction to Godly Play	Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> January 2016
Science	The Role of the Science Leader	Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> March 2016



## Reminders

### Secondary Headteacher & Secondary Deputy/Assistant HT Meetings 2015/16

Secondary Headteacher meeting dates are listed below. Meetings start at 10am with refreshments available from 9.30am. Secondary Headteacher meetings are held at London Diocesan House, 36 Causton Street, London, SW1P 4AU.

Secondary Deputy / Assistant Headteacher meetings are run jointly with Southwark Diocese. Meetings start at 2.30pm with refreshments available from 2.00pm. The venue for Secondary Deputy / Assistant Headteacher meetings has not yet been announced but will be circulated closer to the time.

To register for any of these meetings or to suggest agenda items please email [kate.roskell@london.anglican.org](mailto:kate.roskell@london.anglican.org).

Date	Time	Course title
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> February 2016	2.00 – 4.00pm	Deputy / Assistant Headteacher Meeting
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> March 2016	2.00 – 4.00pm	Secondary Headteacher Meeting
		<b>NB: date and time change</b>
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> June 2016	10am – 12pm	Secondary Headteacher Meeting
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> June 2016	2.00 – 4.00pm	Deputy / Assistant Headteacher Meeting

## EBacc Consultation by the DfE

The government is consulting on proposals to make EBacc the default option for all students in secondary schools, with an expectation that 90% of students will follow this combination of subjects: English, maths, science, a humanities subject (RE not included) and a modern foreign language.

A survey of LDBS secondary headteachers last term showed support for an appropriately academic and challenging curriculum but deep concerns about EBacc for all, including the potential negative impact on the take up of arts subjects at GCSE. We will be submitting an LDBS response to the consultation and urge individual schools to do the same.

The consultation is at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/implementing-the-english-baccalaureate>

## LDBS Newsletter

We really enjoy hearing about our schools and their achievements, whether they are academic, sporting, musical or just entertaining. If any schools would like to send us pieces of work e.g. outstanding poems; newspaper cuttings, news items, a special card or poem that your children have made – these would be a great feature. The next issue of the Newsletter will include a feature on Spring events. Please post, e-mail or fax your news to: Mitch Gallacher at LDBS, Diocesan House, 36 Causton Street, London, SW1P 4AU; E-mail:

[mitch.gallacher@london.anglican.org](mailto:mitch.gallacher@london.anglican.org) ; Fax: 020 7932 1111. *Please make sure you have parental permission for any photos.*



## Document Contents

Bulletin Section	Document Title	Page Number
News	LDBS Safeguarding Policy for LDBS Employees	8
News	St. Jérôme Church of England Bilingual School	9
Admission	Admission Arrangements 2017-18	10 - 12
Governance	Governance Update	13 - 14
Reminders	Sir John Cass Anniversary	15



## LDBS Safeguarding Policy 2015

## LDBS Safeguarding Policy 2015

For Employees of the London Diocesan Board for Schools

All LDBS Staff who go into schools will have an enhanced DBS check. The schools will receive notification of the names and numbers of those staff to add to their own records.

All LDBS staff are expected to adhere to the safeguarding policy of the schools they visit and comply with the checks that individual schools may wish to make.

London Diocesan Board for Schools  
November 2015

## St. Jérôme Church of England Bilingual School on-track to open in 2016

St. Jérôme Church of England Bilingual School has taken another significant step towards opening. The school has secured change of use planning permission for its innovative proposal to turn the former Wickes House building on Station Road into a light, bright, modern primary school. News of the official approval means that the team are on track to start building work as planned early in the New Year.

The creative plans and large spaces mean that, as well as the usual primary school classrooms and halls, the new school will enjoy a range of specialist facilities including: an integrated Early Years facility which allows children to learn indoors and outside, a TV & radio studio, a language resource centre and library, a music room and practice room, and a specialist art and technology room. The school's partnership with Eurostar will see the language resource centre include a Eurostar area with opportunities for role play, science, technology and engineering activities.

Chair of Governors, Ian Fernandes: *"We are really pleased with the way the architect has understood our vision and captured it in the design of the school. Getting this official permission means we will be able to press ahead with our plans to breathe new life into this striking building."*

Executive Headteacher, Daniel Norris: *"I would like to thank the local community for taking this new school to heart before we have even opened our doors. We have met hundreds of local residents and prospective parents at our open days and the feedback about the layout of the building has been lovely. We can't wait to move in ready for our first Reception classes to start school in September."*

St. Jérôme Church of England Bilingual School is an English-French bilingual primary school which will open in September 2016 with two Reception classes. Children do not need to be able to speak French before they start.

It is not too late to apply for a place for any children starting school in September 2016.

There is more information about the school, including floorplans for the site and how to apply for a place, on the school website <http://www.stjeromebilingual.org/>

### Notes

Address of site: 120 - 128 Station Road, Harrow, HA1 2Q

School website: <http://www.stjeromebilingual.org/>

Contact: Penny Roberts, Project Manager [penny.roberts@london.anglican.org](mailto:penny.roberts@london.anglican.org) 07847 479124

# CHANGES THAT NEED TO BE MADE TO ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2017-18

## Introduction

A new revised School Admissions Code came into force on 19 December 2014 followed by guidance. It applies to admission arrangements from the year 2016-17. Schools will need to ensure that when they determine their admission arrangements for 2017-18 they should ensure that the following references reflect the new code. If you have any questions about this please contact Penny Harvey on 020 7932 1151 or [penny.harvey@london.anglican.org](mailto:penny.harvey@london.anglican.org)

## What needs to be included in 2017-2018 arrangements?

### Any Reference to the Code

Most policies refer to compliance with the 2012 Code. This should now refer to the **2014 Code**.

### Summer Born Children Entering Reception Classes

The new Code includes the DfE's 2014 guidance on summer born children.

Paragraphs on the following **must** be included:

Admission authorities **must** make it clear that where a place has been offered:

- it is for a full-time place from the September following the child's fourth birthday;
- the place may be deferred until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age ( the term after the fifth birthday) This means that parents of a child whose fifth birthday falls between 1 September 2016 and 31 March 2017 may request that their child is not admitted until later in the school year 2016/17. But no later than the term after the child's fifth birthday, when s/he reaches compulsory school age. For children born between 1 April and 31 August, this is not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year for which it was made. The school will hold any deferred place for the child.
- where parents wish a child may attend part-time until they reach compulsory school age.

Admissions out of the normal age group.

It must also be made clear in admission arrangements the process for requesting admission out of the normal age group. For children whose fifth birthday falls between 1 April 2017 and 31 August 2017, parents who do not wish them to start school in school year 2016-17, but to be admitted in September 2017 for school year 2017-18, should discuss this with the school at an early stage. The details of the protocol to be used should be included. Decisions must be made on the circumstances of each case and the best interests of the child. Parental views, academic achievement, social and emotional development and where relevant medical views should be taken into consideration. The views of the school's head must also be taken into account. The reasons for the decision must be clearly set out.

Parents may decide not to apply for a Reception place in the school but to apply for a Year 1 place in September 2017. Parents should be aware that the Year 1 group may have no vacancies as it could be full with children transferring from the 2016-17 Reception Year group. Alternatively, they may decide to apply in the normal round (no later than 15 January 2017) for a Reception Year place in September 2017, but would need to provide strong supporting reasons for seeking a place outside the normal year group and apply via the protocol outlined above.

## Looked After Children

The DfE issued new guidance in 2014 which added children adopted under an earlier Act to those adopted under the 2002 Act. This has now been included in the Code and must appear in all policies for 2015-16. Child arrangement orders have also replaced residence orders. There should be a new criterion 1 and associated note:

\*1 Looked-after children and children who were previously looked after, but ceased to be so because, immediately after being looked after, they became subject to an adoption, child arrangements or special guardianship order.”

\*Note: By a “looked-after child” we mean one in the care of a local authority or being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of its social services function. An adoption order is one made under the Adoption Act 1976 (Section 12) or the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (Section 46). A ‘child arrangements order is one settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live (Children Act 1989, Section 8, as amended by the Children and Families Act 2014, Section 14). A ‘special guardianship order’ is one appointing one or more individuals to be a child’s special guardian/s (Children Act 1989, Section 14A). Applications under this criterion should be accompanied by evidence to show that the child is looked after or was previously looked after (e.g. a copy of the adoption, child arrangements or special guardianship order).”

## Education, Health and Care Plans

These are now beginning to replace Statements of SEN, either in the introduction or notes after the over-subscription criteria a section along the following lines: “Children with a Statement of Special Educational Need or with an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan naming ..... School will always be offered places.

## Future Arrangements

### Consultation/Determination

From school year 2017-18, a new timetable for consulting and determining policies will come into force. Consultation must be for a minimum of 6 weeks and must take place between 1 October and 31 January of the school year before the arrangements are due to apply. The arrangements must then be determined by 28 February 2016 with a copy being sent to the LA by 15 March 2016.

**This means that schools and academies need to start looking at any changes during the summer term 2015 so that they can consult the Diocese during September 2015**

It remains a legal requirement for LDBS schools and academies to consult the LDBS before anyone else, including the LA. Any objections to school admission arrangements must be sent to the Schools Adjudicator by 15 May 2016.

### Other possible changes requiring Consultation for 2017-18

The new Code makes it clear, at paragraph 1.39A, that admissions authorities may give priority in their over-subscription criteria to children eligible for the pupil premium or the service premium. This would constitute a material change and will need to be consulted on for their 2016-17 policies.

Schools may also now give priority in their over-subscription criteria to children eligible for the early years pupil premium, pupil premium or service premium who are in a nursery class at the school or attend a nursery established and run by the school. **N.B.** this does not extend to children from a nursery class or associated nursery who are not eligible for one of those premiums.

<b>NEW CONSULTATION STEPS FOR ADMISSION POLICIES 2017/18</b>	
<b>Summer Term 2015</b>	Consider any changes needed to the <b>2016</b> policy
<b><u>No later than end of Sep 15</u></b>	Consult with Diocese and take into account any advice received,
<b>Between: 1 Oct 15 – 31 Jan 16</b>	<p>Consult more widely for a minimum of <u>6</u> weeks between 1 October 2015 and 31 January 2016. <u>It is best to start before the Autumn half term holiday</u></p> <p><u>To be consulted:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents of children between 2 and 18</li> <li>• All other admission authorities in “relevant area” – (primary schools need not consult secondary schools)</li> <li>• LA</li> <li>• Other persons in “relevant area” who might have an interest, e.g. nurseries, play groups, local councils, etc</li> <li>• Adjoining neighbouring LAs where admission authority is the LA</li> <li>• <b>Must</b> publish draft admission arrangements on school website with details of how and to whom to comment</li> <li>• Suggest send copies to LA for possible publication on LA website</li> <li>• Suggest provide copies to nurseries, play groups, etc</li> <li>• <b>Must</b> send copies on request to anyone listed in 1.44</li> <li>• <b>LA’s may circulate on behalf of the governors</b></li> </ul>
<b>28 Feb 16</b>	<p><b>DETERMINATION</b></p> <p>All admission authorities must determine their policies by 28 Feb 2016 <u>even if no changes and no consultation needed</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Must</b> notify all those consulted <u>plus GBs of community and VC schools in “relevant area”</u> (1.47)</li> <li>• <b>Must send copy to Diocese</b> (1.47)</li> <li>• <b>Must</b> publish copy of determined arrangements on school website (1.47). Suggest also give details of how to refer objections to Schools Adjudicator (by 15 May 2016)</li> <li>• <b>Must</b> send copy to LA no later than 15 March 2016 (1.47)</li> </ul>

# Governance Update

## 1. Annual Governance statements – clarification

In the September mailing we drew attention to DfE advice that LA maintained school governing bodies should as good practice publish an annual statement setting out the key issues they have addressed over the year with an assessment of the impact of their work.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-governance-regulations-2013>.

We pointed out that Academies are required to publish an annual governance statement (see Academies Financial Handbook sections 1.5.14 and 1.5.15).

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/academies-financial-handbook-2015>

*To clarify:* for schools in a multi-academy trust this is the responsibility of the trust, not the local governing body.

Please also note that para 1.5.15 of the Handbook suggests the use of the APPG 20 / 21 questions schedule which can be found in full on the NGA website. <http://www.nga.org.uk/Home.aspx>. The 20 questions schedule is suitable for maintained schools and stand-alone academies; the 21 questions are for MATs. They are useful for internal self-evaluation and can be used as part of a review of governance with an external facilitator. If you would be interested in the latter as part of your Grow package entitlement please contact your attached adviser for more information.

## 2. HMCI statement on governance and Ofsted survey

Sir Michael Wilshaw (Her Majesty's Chief Inspector) has chosen governance as the subject of his monthly commentary.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/hmcis-monthly-commentary-november-2015>

Sir Michael points out that *the role that governance plays in ensuring that every child receives the best possible education has never been more important. The huge changes to our increasingly autonomous education system over the past 5 years, including the rapid growth of academies and free schools, has placed more power into the hands of governing boards than ever before.*

He commends the many schools where governors and trustees are making an important contribution to raising standards and lifting aspiration, but cites the nearly 500 schools where inspectors recommended an external review of governance as evidence that in too many schools oversight is weak and the governing board is struggling to have the necessary impact.

Sir Michael is concerned that *high-quality training for all governors, but particularly the chair and vice-chair, is vital to the success of our schools* and has asked Inspectors, when they make a judgement on governance, to focus particularly on training and the arrangements schools are making to source expertise in this vital work.

Ofsted is undertaking a survey which explores HMCI's concerns and will issue a report. It will

- examine whether governing boards have the right mix of professional skills and experience
- assess whether the time has now arrived to make provision for paid governance
- look at whether local authorities, Regional School Commissioners and others intervene early enough when problems with governance are spotted between Ofsted inspections

- explore whether in an increasingly diverse system, the right structures are in place to support governors and trustees, and to deliver the training they need to hold schools to account
- investigate the level of guidance and support governors receive for headship appointments
- look at the extent to which governors are involved in succession planning for school leaders
- look at whether external reviews of governance are an effective tool for improving standards
- look at the role performed by National Leaders of Governance and whether there are enough of them to make a difference
- examine some of the specific challenges facing governors of standalone academies
- explore the relationship between multi-academy trusts and their local governing boards / local academy committees and the extent to which respective roles are clearly defined and delineated

To read the full report and participate in the survey: <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/hmcis-monthly-commentary-november-2015>

### **New Governance Handbook - out now**

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/480355/Governance\\_Handbook\\_-\\_pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/480355/Governance_Handbook_-_pdf)

The new edition has been re-named the 'Governance Handbook' to make clear that it applies to all those involved in governance. The handbook now refers throughout to the 'board' to emphasise that it applies both to the governing body of a small maintained school and the board of a large MAT. The Governance Handbook also emphasises the importance of schools using objective data to ask the right questions and provide robust accountability; and how formalised collaboration allows for schools to fully realise the benefits of working together while gaining a more strategic perspective. As well as being updated to reflect changes to the law affecting boards and changes to education policy, the new version includes:

- A new structure to better focus on the core functions of the board and the essentials of effective governance;
- A reduction in size of twenty pages, with links signposting to further guidance where required; and
- Further links to best practice and to the resources and support available to boards to be effective.

### **DBS checks for all governors – coming soon**

DBS checks are not currently mandatory for maintained school governors. The current system of disqualification relies on self-disclosure – with individuals certifying that none of the disqualifications set out in regulations apply to them when they are appointed or elected. DfE is intending to amend the 2012 Constitution Regulations to require all governors, including all new governors, to receive an enhanced check by the Disclosure and Barring Service where they have not already been checked. The proposed changes are:

- a) To require, from 1 April 2016, all new governors at maintained schools to be DBS checked before appointment or as soon as practical thereafter.
- b) To require that by 1 September 2016 all existing governors must have a DBS check.

This will bring the maintained sector into line with the requirements in place for trustees in academies and free schools. Where a person has already received a DBS check because they are a governor on another governing body or a trustee of an academy, a new DBS check would not be required.



# Sir John Cass

Sir John Cass's Foundation & Red Coat CofE  
Secondary School and Sixth Form College



## Are you a past student of Sir John Cass Redcoat School?

in the lead up to our 50 year anniversary,  
we would like to invite you to join us at your 'Class of' reunion



Class of 60's



Class of 80's



Class of 00's



Class of 70's



Class of 90's

December 2015	Class of 60's & 70's
March 2016	Class of 80's & 90's
May 2016	Class of 00's - Present

September 2016 - 50 Years Celebration Party

Please register your interest at,  
[www.sjcr.net/alumni](http://www.sjcr.net/alumni)

Sir John Cass Redcoat School|Stepney Way|London|E1 0RH

[www.sjcr.net](http://www.sjcr.net)|0207 790 6712|[info@sjcr.net](mailto:info@sjcr.net)

@SJCRschool