

# Governance Alert

Issue  
12

Information for governors, trustees & clerks Autumn term issue 12  
DES Governance Consultancy Team Week ending: 06.12.24

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<b>£740 million national SEND capital funding</b> Aimed at creating more specialist places in mainstream schools. Allocations will be confirmed in the spring, alongside guidance outlining how councils can use this investment to improve local mainstream provision.	<b>For all governors and trustees</b> <a href="#">Department for Education press release</a> A new 'Neurodivergence Task and Finish Group' has been established to help drive inclusive education.
<b>Increase in rate for universal infant free school meals</b> The DfE has announced that the rate of funding has increased by 5p to £2.58 per meal, backdated to September. For many schools this may still not cover the actual costs, as we shared in the report from School Food Matters, which estimates the cost to be £3.16 per meal on average.	<b>For all primary governors and trustees</b> <a href="#">Universal infant free school meals</a> School Food Matters – <a href="#">cost of a school meal</a> report
<b>Secondary school attendance summary report</b> The DfE has launched a new report for governing boards and leaders. Simon Blake, deputy director at the DfE's attendance division, has guest authored a blog for 'The Hoot' which explains how boards can use the information as a focus for discussion in meetings.	<b>For all secondary governors and trustees</b> <a href="#">Read Simon's blog on The Hoot</a>
<b>Government 'plan for change' published</b> Sir Keir Starmer has set out the government's six key 'milestones' including to give children 'the best start in life'.	<b>For all governors and trustees</b> <a href="#">Plan for change</a> <a href="#">Break down barriers to opportunity</a>
<b>Academies benchmark report</b> GovernorHub is working with Kreston Reeves to bring the trustee voice to this important research. If you're a chair of trustees, finance trustee or sit on a MAT finance committee you may wish to complete the survey.	<b>For all academy finance trustees and chairs</b> <a href="#">Access the survey</a> Contributors can remain anonymous if they wish
<b>Mental health support and resources for schools</b> The DfE and Anna Freud have a range of support for schools, including new, evidence-based resources for this academic year. There is a targeted mental wellbeing support toolkit to support children experiencing difficulties with mental wellbeing and attendance.	<b>For all governors and trustees</b> <a href="#">Resource hub</a> <a href="#">Targeted mental health support toolkit</a> Resources for schools – <a href="#">mental wellbeing and attendance</a>
<b>New Q-card (question card)</b> No 36 – Governing in the special school context.	<b>For all special school governors and trustees</b> <a href="#">Q-cards</a>
<b>Clerking vacancies</b> St Giles on the Heath Primary (virtual role considered)	<b>For all interested parties</b> Contact <a href="mailto:admin@st-giles-heath-primary.devon.sch.uk">admin@st-giles-heath-primary.devon.sch.uk</a>
<b>Training opportunities</b> <b>The governance of safeguarding</b> 14 Jan, 10-11.30 <b>Introduction to governance (maintained)</b> 15 Jan, 5.30-7.30 <b>Supporting school leaders health &amp; wellbeing</b> 16 Jan, 12.30-13.15 <b>Clerks briefings</b> 21 Jan, 10-12, Future Skills Centre, Exeter; 22 Jan, 10.30-12 online and 23 Jan 17.00-18.30, online <b>Special Educational Needs and Disabilities</b> 22 Jan, 10-11.30	<b>For all governors, trustees and clerks</b> Search by date for further information and bookings: <a href="#">Training, conferences and professional development</a> <a href="http://DES (devoneducationservices.co.uk)">DES (devoneducationservices.co.uk)</a>

