

# Chair of Governors Update

24 March 2022

Dear Colleagues

The last 2 years have presented us with the most significant issues, and have brought equalities very much to the forefront of our thoughts. As well as the challenges of a pandemic, we have grappled to make sense of a world in which many witnessed the horrific murders of George Floyd, Sarah Everard and the human tragedy, which is still unfolding in Ukraine. Last week, our whole Hackney community, and those far beyond, were filled with anger and dismay when we heard about the degrading treatment of Child Q - a black girl subjected to a police-led search in a school setting.

In light of the [Local Safeguarding Practice Review of Child Q](#), we changed our Governors virtual forum last week, so we could share headlines and recommendations, and also permit time to ask questions and share comments. The events that Child Q had to endure has triggered the whole community to ask how and why this happened to a child - one of our own. We share this [video](#) and [slides](#) so you can watch-back. We have also captured the calls to action below.

Although words alone will never be enough to bring comfort to Child Q, in supporting her and our community, in particular our Black and global majority young people, we can draw strength from **solidarity**. As governors of schools, working with our leaders, staff, professional partners and most importantly our families, we have a civic and moral duty to galvanise our efforts, unify our drive, and tackle inequality, injustice and racism. We must enact meaningful change to ensure all of our children succeed.

By way of a final reflection, this quote from Nelson Mandela resonates: **'Education is the most powerful weapon, which you can use to change the world'**. Make sure we use this power wisely!

Sincerely,

**Maggie Kalnins, Leader of Governance Services**

## Child Q Call to Action:

We share this video of Jahnine Davis, Director of [Listen Up](#), explaining **adultification bias after black schoolgirl strip searched by police**

**Summary of comments shared at our governors forum - [watch-back here](#)**

- The real question is what is good enough for my child?
- Disproportionality continues amongst black children and people need to get comfortable with feeling uncomfortable and address this.
- This is a wake up call for Hackney whilst we can celebrate our achievements, we should be making a statement as part of our commitment to anti racism.
- The black issue is part of a wider systemic problem with the highest rates of exclusion and undiagnosed special educational needs in black children, and we have to be honest about that.
- Solutions will come from pupils, parents and staff in terms of changes and safe spaces must be provided for people to effect change
- Saying that it will never happen again means we do not see the systemic or institutional racism, the bias, the misgivings, the microaggressions or the subliminal actions, and we have collective responsibility.

- Adopt a curiosity and safeguarding approach rather than a behavioural or criminal justice response
- increase uptake of adultification training.
- Governors are community leaders and activists for our children.
- This should be for discussion at schools' next full governing body meetings and some schools are writing to the parents about it.
- We have to be aware of our rights as school leaders. We have in many ways more rights than we may be aware of.
- Adults must be instinctively aware of their duty to protect all children and identify risks to them.
- The report writer acknowledged that this could have happened anywhere across the country and some of the recommendations are national in terms of changes to guidance and legislation.

The content:

- Quality Education and high achievement for all
- Promoting Equalities and anti racism
- Systems and Support: Governance advice, information and training to support key systems:
  - *SEND & inclusion; including reducing exclusions*
  - *Engagement with parents*
  - *Well being, health and safety of students and/or staff;*
  - *Safeguarding*
  - *Recruitment, development and retention of staff*
  - *Strategic business/ financial planning and risk management*
  - *Effective collaboration with the Hackney family of schools and key partners*

Future Dates of Hackney Governors Virtual Forum (5 to 6:00pm):

- Thursday 5th May 2022
- Thursday 30th June 2022

Overview of Governors Training Programme for [Summer](#) 2021/22.

**We also remind you of our [previous updates and tools](#), and our [Governance Services offer](#), all designed to assist the crucial work you do.**

## Quality Education and high achievement for all

### Key Notes from Governors Forum

- **Primary ambition target setting and primary assessment update**

This link will take you to : [\(Forum Recording: Primary Ambition Target Setting and Primary Assessment Update\)](#) please refer to [Slides 28 - 42](#)

- **Secondary ambition targets and headline on arrangements for summer exams**

This link will take you to: [\(Forum Recording: Exams 2022 and Secondary Ambition Targets\)](#) please refer to [Slides 43- 50](#)

### Relevant Announcements and Reports

- **Supporting pupils and staff during the conflict in Ukraine:** DfE [published a blog](#) with the aim of helping schools and families talk to pupils about the conflict in Ukraine.
- **Ofsted 2022 Inspection Data Summary Report**
- **Exams 2022** Ofqual chief regulator [Jo Saxon](#) has announced that GCSE and A-level grading standards this year will be set between the pre-pandemic standards of 2019 and 2021.
- **Independent Assessment Commission review of the exam system**
- **Key dates and information for primary KS2 assessments: STA updates**
- **Ofsted Talks: Ofsted podcast**
- CfEY: [What next for children's reading?](#)
- CfEY: [Four questions to guide edtech](#)
- Tim Brighouse: [What over one hundred expert witnesses told us about the state of English schools](#)
- **ASCL Leadership Podcast | White Paper for Education in England**
- **Too little, too late: early help and early intervention spending in England**
- **The Cost of the School Day project, the report** shares voices of pupils and families
- **Political Impartiality in schools guidance** has been published by the Department for Education (DfE) and reflected in the updated **RSHE implementation guidance**.
- **DfE blog outlining how Black, Asian and minority ethnic history can be taught in our schools, which boards may find useful as a starting point.**
- **Post-16 qualifications measures:** A consultation has been launched seeking views on plans to reform post-16 qualifications.

#### Governor Training - hosted virtually

- [Administration of Key Stage 2 Tests: How do governing boards observe Key Stage 2 Test \(SATs\) Administration to assure best practice?](#) Wednesday 20th April, 5pm - 7pm
- [Step 1: Introduction How Do Governors Fulfil Their Professional And Ethical Responsibility?](#) Thursday 21 April 2022, 5pm - 7pm

### Promoting equalities and anti-racism

#### Key Notes from Governors Forum

- See key notes relating to the Child Q section above.

#### Relevant Announcements and Reports

- [NFER report: Investigating the changing landscape of pupil disadvantage.](#)
- [Deaf pupils fall behind due to a decline in the number of specialist teachers](#)
- [Covid-19 and Disadvantage gaps in England 2020](#)
- [Reframing Sport for Teenage Girls: Tackling Teenage Disengagement](#)
- [Gender in the KS3 English Curriculum - End Sexism in Schools](#)

#### Governor Training - hosted virtually

- [Tackling Inequalities: How do Governors Ensure an Inclusive Approach for Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities?](#) Tuesday, 29 March 2022, 5pm to 7pm
- [Tackling inequalities: Hackney Young Black Men Initiative – understanding Cultural Competency, Racial Identity and Unconscious Bias](#) Wednesday 27 April 2022, 9am- 11am

Systems and Support: Governance advice, information and training to support key systems:

*Engagement with parents*

#### Relevant Announcements and Reports

- **Forums for parents - advice for running sessions with parents.** Contact [Debra.Robinson@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:Debra.Robinson@hackney.gov.uk)
- **Sending personalised letters or texts to parents can help improve attendance, but wider evidence on how to reduce absenteeism is weak.**

#### **Governor Training - hosted virtually**

- **Stakeholder Engagement and Complaints: How do governing boards ensure effective engagement with stakeholders and effectively manage complaints?** Wednesday 25 May 2022 5pm - 7pm

### *Well being, health and safety of students and/or staff*

#### **Key Notes from Governors Forum**

- **Agenda title:** Public Health update: Hackney covid context and programme to vaccinate the community - Please refer to **Slides 14 - 26**

#### **Relevant Announcements and Reports**

- **Support and discussions with pupils** - advice and guidance for holding discussions with pupils [here](#) about their feeling safe and what they want to see in terms of further equalities work. We are also looking at how we can facilitate safe spaces for pupils to talk about racism. Contact [Helena.Burke@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:Helena.Burke@hackney.gov.uk)
- **Individual counselling for pupils** - For young people who are affected by the Child Q [help is available through Young Hackney and our partners.](#)
- **Exclusions and mental health: a complex link: Being excluded predicts a mental health condition three years later, research shows – here, Professor Tamsin Ford explains the implications for schools**
- Updated **operational guidance for schools** states that pupils and staff should follow guidance on **people with COVID-19 and their contacts** if they have COVID-19 symptoms
- **Surge in children presenting with mental health challenges** leads to renewed calls for funding: (DfE) data carried out by the [Local Government Association](#).
- Annie Gammon, Director of Education and Dr Sandra Husbands, Director of Public Health, letter to parents/carers - [Covid-19 vaccination for young people aged over 12 years old](#)

### *Safeguarding*

#### **Key Notes from Governors Forum**

- See key notes relating to the Child Q section above.

#### **Relevant Announcements and Reports**

- [Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review Child Q March 2022](#)
- Jahnine Davis - Director of [Listen Up](#), explains **adulthood bias after black schoolgirl strip searched by police**
- The Commission on Young Lives- **'A New Partnership With Families: Supporting Families to Keep Teenagers Safe From Gangs, Exploitation and Abuse'**
- **Child C update report - letter from Jim Gamble QPM**: for the Serious Case Review into the death of Tashaun Aird (Child C).

#### **Governor Training - hosted virtually**

- **Safeguarding: How Do Governors Fulfil Their Responsibility To Safeguard And Protect Children?** Tuesday 3rd May 2022, 9am - 11am

## *Recruitment, development and retention of staff*

### **Relevant Announcements and Reports**

- [Confederation of Schools Trust: Professional Development in Schools Trust - Capacity, Conditions and Culture.](#)

## *Strategic business/financial planning and risk management*

### **Relevant Announcements and Reports**

- Foundation of Education Development: [National Education Consultation Report](#)
- [New guidance: SFVS and school resource management self-assessment checklist \(SRMSAC\)](#)
- [The EEF guide to becoming an evidence-informed school governor and trustee](#)

### **Governor Training - hosted virtually**

- [The Foundations of Strong Governance: Step 2. How do Governing Boards Make the Right Strategic Financial Choices for their School?](#) Wednesday 4 May 2022, 5pm - 7pm
- [The Foundations Of Strong Governance Step 3. How Do Governing Boards Strategically Assess And Manage Risks In Their Schools?](#) Tuesday 17 May 2022, 5pm - 7pm

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