



The ER Governor

A Publication of the East Riding Association of Governing Bodies

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ERAGB NEEDS YOU!

DO YOU WANT TO HAVE A SAY IN EDUCATION?

Are you willing to give up a small amount of your time to help steer **ERAGB** into its 5th year and be a part of shaping educational policy in the East Riding? If you are, and can attend one meeting every 6 weeks or so, we want to hear from you.

It is widely accepted amongst the governors of the East Riding that **ERAGB** has established an important role on behalf of the governing bodies of East Riding Schools.

Just a few examples of our accomplishments are:

- Holding regular meetings with the Director of Children, Family and Adult services together with senior officers of the Local Authority in order to ensure that the governor viewpoint is considered in all policy developments.
- Giving governors a steady stream of information on all current local, regional and national developments relevant to governors.
- Giving governors the tools they need to do their job such as guides like 'Are we doing what we are supposed to be doing?' and the 5 part 'Every Child Matters' pack which focuses on the responsibilities of governors for the wellbeing of pupils. (See also below)
- Providing, together with the Local Authority, a most successful conference in the Autumn term 2008 which was attended by more than 100 governors.

We now need new thinking to help us face the challenges of the future.

There are 3 immediate vacancies for new members of Council. Why not you? If you believe you could make a contribution to the development of the governance of schools in the East Riding by steering the future activities of ERAGB please contact us through our Secretary, Janet Slater janetslater88@hotmail.com.

We look forward to hearing from you.

EVERY CHILD MATTERS

Do you know what it means to 'Enjoy and achieve'?

Do you understand what is involved in 'Making a positive contribution'?

As promised, the next two guides in the Every Child Matters (ECM) series 'Enjoy and achieve' and 'Make a positive contribution' are now available on the **ERAGB** website: <http://eragb.net/> You will already have received in school the first two guides 'Be Healthy' and 'Stay Safe' (including an Introduction) in our Every Child Matters Resource Pack for Governors. Those of you who attended the **ERAGB/LA** Conference at Bishop Burton in October might have participated in the ECM workshop where the guides were first presented. Each guide describes the key aims of each outcome, the Government's targets and what OFSTED inspectors are looking for.

Again we pose questions for governors to think about and pursue in their different settings. Surely we can all expect a 4 year old to 'Enjoy and achieve' but can they 'Make a positive contribution'? As in the previous two guides, we aim to speak to governors in every phase of education. For example, the 4 year pupil can learn to make a positive contribution by starting to take responsibility for their immediate environment by tidying the classroom and watering the plants. Older pupils might be engaged in planning a significant environmental project and playing key roles in school decision-making.

Perhaps it is easier to recognise and applaud the aim of making school enjoyable for the younger children, but surely there comes a time when enjoyment no longer merits attention? Yet recent studies of well-being and happiness amongst children and young people, particularly in the UK, make for depressing reading. These are some of the questions we pose in the Enjoy and Achieve Guide;

'How does the school actively promote and plan for enjoyment? How does your school know if children enjoy school? Do children say they enjoy school? Some may see a conflict between enjoyment and high standards. Can children enjoy school and achieve well?'

'Every Child Matters: Change for Children' is the integrated government approach to promoting the well-being of children and young people from birth to age 19. In writing these short guides for governors, **ERAGB** aims to support governors in understanding the key issues and in enabling them to find out what their schools are doing by asking the right sort of questions, however difficult they may be.

SERVING THE EAST RIDING'S 2500 GOVERNORS

By East Riding Governors - For East Riding Governors

WILL YOUR TEACHERS NEED EXTRA COVER FROM SEPTEMBER 2009?

They most certainly will. Have you got your plans in place?

How can cover be provided?

How many hours are teachers actually contracted to work?

All schools will need to implement the objective that Teachers should only “rarely cover” from 1st September 2009. Your school needs a revised policy in place.

Cover is important because it is seen as a “standards” issue; pupils need teaching in their lessons, not just to be supervised.

There was a 38 hours per year limit on teachers providing cover, this policy was imposed from September 2004, it worked out at 1 hour per week (the children are in school for 38 weeks a year). The 38 hours limit is being superseded by the term “rarely cover”.

What does “rarely cover” mean? No one has defined it yet (not surprised?). I think we should take it to mean that only under very exceptional circumstances should teachers be asked to cover. Note: when teachers are asked to provide cover, it must be shared out amongst all the teaching staff including the Head.

Cover can be provided by “cover supervisors”. (Short term). “Cover supervisors” can be employed to cover short term absence. Short term absences can be defined as not more than 3 consecutive days.

Teachers can be employed solely to provide cover in larger schools (and federations?). (Long term and short term)

Note: There is a big difference between short term “unplanned” cover and “planned” cover. e.g. School trips are “planned” activities, hence they do not count as “unplanned” cover, they must be covered as part of the “planned” process. You must know how short term and long term absence are differentiated in your policy.

Supply teachers can be contracted. (Short and long term)

A member of the support staff with High Level Teacher Assistant status can be used to cover, (short term and supervised).

There is an annual limit of 1265 hours for teachers. This works out at about 6.5 hours per day (195 days) and must include Guaranteed Planning Preparation and Assessment time. This time should be set as 10% of a teacher’s timetabled teaching time and be scheduled during the timetabled teaching day in blocks of not less than 30 minutes.

Teachers can have “gained” time, this is when they have been released from the timetable because of exams etc, this time cannot be considered “free” time that can be used for cover, it should be used to develop and update schemes of work and for any other Planning Preparation and Assessment type activities.

Management and leadership time must also be timetabled depending upon responsibility levels. This is sacrosanct and must not be used for cover.

Remember that Newly Qualified teachers are a special case and need a further 10% Planning Preparation and Assessment time allocating to their timetable during their induction period.

So good luck in September. Let us hope that you have a normal amount of absence to cope with in the next year and that you can allocate enough money in your budget for your cover needs.

More detailed guidance available at

www.tda.gov.uk/remodelling.aspx

Criminal Records Bureau Clearance – a ‘pain’ but VITAL

Earlier this year, the Director of Children, Family and Adult services wrote to all schools on the topic. Our purpose here is to emphasise the importance of CRB clearance to the recruitment process and the potential size of the problems in the event of non-compliance with the ERYC policy. Governors are reminded that the policy requires all school based staff to have an East Riding enhanced CRB disclosure. This is a legal requirement on appointment and must be renewed every 3 years. CRB disclosures from other employers are not acceptable. It is wise to begin the process as early as possible as it can become prolonged. No matter how aggravating a delayed start might prove to be, Governors should ensure that **no new employee is allowed to take up their post before clearance has been obtained**. This is of vital importance.

It is also suggested that governors should ensure that all existing staff renewing their CRB are requested to re-apply at least 3 months before their clearance expires. It can take up to 12 weeks to obtain a clearance!!

TELL US WHAT YOU WANT.

Please let us have your suggestions for future topics for ER Governor.
Email the Editor at roylizwhite@roylizwhite.karoo.co.uk