

How we Support governors

Services provided by Peterborough Governor Services

Governor handbook for every governor

Our handbook provides a useful resource to support all governors in their role. It aims to:

- Provide easy access to up-to-date information and guidance on governors' roles and responsibilities
- Provide information and guidance on the work of the governing body
- Provide sign-posting for where to find further information and guidance.

Induction training

Here at Peterborough Local Authority, the Governor Services Team are anxious to ensure that all governors have the opportunity to access the National Training Programme for New Governors as soon as possible after appointment. The course defines the key roles and responsibilities of governing bodies in achieving effective schools and helps new governors to become confident and effective members of the team. It is a good forum in which to find answers to those questions that new governors may not have dared to ask anyone else. In short, it is a vital element of a governor's induction programme and we strongly recommend that all governors attend during the first twelve to eighteen months following their appointment.

Training for governors

Peterborough Governor Services provide a range of training opportunities. Governor training is not compulsory but all governors are strongly encouraged to take up available training, particularly induction courses.

Governing bodies should constantly review their skills base and should ensure that governors take every opportunity to update their knowledge and understanding. Longer serving governors as well as newer governors will find attendance at sessions valuable in helping them to understand their roles and responsibilities. Training can now be accessed in a variety of ways:

- The core training programme offers face to face sessions during the day, late afternoon and evening
- In-house courses are available as an individual development session in school
- On-line learning is available through the [GEL website](#).

Training newsletters

The Governor Training Newsletter is issued each month and sent to all clerks and link/training governors. It contains details of forthcoming training sessions for school governors. Courses are free to subscribing schools, but a charge will be made for non-attendance. Governors may book as many courses as they wish to attend.



Governor e-learning

All governors are able to access an online learning package. This training will supplement conventional face to face training rather than replace it. It will provide an opportunity for governors to access training more easily from their own homes, offices and schools and promote discussion about a range of topics in governors' meetings.

The online resource can be accessed at www.elc-gel.org and includes a wide range of modules including:

- The Role of the SEN Governor
- Safeguarding – The Governor's Role
- Key Functions of the Governing Body
- Health & Safety
- Taking the Chair
- Helping Children Achieve More

The Governor Service Team supports governors by providing:

- An induction pack for all governors
 - Advice and guidance relating to individual governing body development needs
 - Guidance on roles and responsibilities
 - Guidance to support governors' role in relation to school improvement
 - Access to Governing Body Self Evaluation Materials
 - Legal and governance advice
 - Access to guidance papers and service leaflets
 - Information about legislative change
 - Access to the Governors Forum termly information session
 - One individual governing body development session per year free of charge
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- Development and support for clerks, including termly clerk's briefing meetings
- Support for the recruitment of all categories of governors, including the provision of recruitment literature & resources
- Follow-up support, after inspection, for developing the governing body's action plan
- A telephone and email help line for legislative and other enquiries.

Our planning for governor development sessions aims to ensure that they:

- support governors in fulfilling their role
- support school improvement planning/governor development plans and meet identified need
- are led by experienced tutors who have an expert understanding of school governance and the role of governors
- use a variety of appropriate activities and training methods
- provide supporting materials
- provide delegates with clear information for joining the course
- adhere to the advertised programme at the advertised time and venue
- include evaluation as a key part of the programme
- respond promptly to governing body requests for advice and guidance
- ensure that information relating to new DfE guidance and legislative change is made available to governing bodies at the earliest opportunity
- establish effective partnerships with schools and governing bodies
- support governor recruitment strategies across all Peterborough schools
- seek to provide continuous improvement of services offered in line with Best Value principles.

