



**The ASGB is run by members for members to support the work of governance in Sandwell Schools**

**Spring Term Newsletter 2020**

**Coronavirus and School Governance**

Dear Colleague,

May we first of all say that we hope that you and your families are all well and staying safe during this very difficult time.

Schools have closed for all pupils except for children of key workers and vulnerable children, with the majority of pupils now being home schooled. Your Head Teacher and school staff will have been working extremely hard to ensure that they are prepared for all the challenges these events have thrown down.

Hopefully, your Head Teacher, chair or clerk will have had time to update you on the arrangements that have been put in place at your school and you may well have received guidance on the role of governors and the Governing Board. We have no wish to duplicate this but it is important that governors understand their responsibilities in these exceptional times. To this end, we have included a note of some of the most useful items and attached various items to the email.

Governing Boards will be looking at how they can carry out their statutory responsibilities without face to face meetings. It is likely that we have all had our IT skills challenged!

May we refer you to the National Governance Association site ([www.nga.org.uk](http://www.nga.org.uk)) to keep up to date on everything governance related during this period? All ASGB members are also members of the NGA and should have access to all of their resources. Some links/attachments will arrive with this newsletter but please use this excellent resource. The NGA GOLDline service is currently available to **all** members by email to [gold@nga.org.uk](mailto:gold@nga.org.uk) or by calling 0121 237 3782 if you have specific questions.

If you have any problem with access or receipt of updates direct from NGA, please contact the support officer.

**Virtual Meetings**

- ◆ Your school may already have a policy in place regarding Virtual Meetings. If not, the authority to hold virtual meetings may be conferred by a chair's action or as the first agenda item at the first virtual meeting.
- ◆ There are various video meeting platforms available. Your Headteacher and Chair will decide on the most suitable one for the school and governors.
- ◆ Decisions must be quorate and the meeting must be minuted.
- ◆ Several webinars are available to help you set up and run your virtual meetings. See links and the Virtual Governance Guidance attached.

**Governor Priorities at this time**

- Governing Boards should arrange to hold virtual meetings in order to ensure that they address critical decisions and undertake monitoring. This may include:
- Budget Approval
- Staffing Appointments.
- Monitoring safeguarding arrangements
- Monitoring Health and Safety arrangements
- Monitoring home education arrangements
- Wellbeing of all school staff
- Attachments/links are available to help and inform

**ASGB Summer Conference**

**We have of course, cancelled out Summer Conference which was to be held on 16th May 2020.**

**Very disappointing, as we had a great line up of speakers and workshops but we hope to rearrange it later in the year.**

Stay safe and well, best wishes,

ASGB Joint Chairs Elaine Benbow & Lynn Howard Contact us via the ASGB website at <http://asgb.org.uk/home/contact>