

Latest developments in support for Headteachers and Governing Bodies

Governors E-Learning (GEL)

In order to supplement the training that Governor Services offers we have recently bought into Governors E-Learning, which is hosted through the website of the Eastern Leadership Centre in Cambridge at www.elc-gel.org.

We recognise that some governors have difficulty in attending our central training courses, due to either work/personal commitments or the distance they would have to travel to our usual training venues. The online training provided by GEL will enable you to undertake appropriate training at your convenience at home or even during a governors' meeting using the school's IT facilities.

There is a wide range of training courses available through the website, alongside other information that governors and governing bodies will find very useful. All the material is currently produced by Governor Services Co-ordinators from the eastern region (ERCOGS).

Registration is simple. Click on the link above and follow the instructions provided. Governor Services will be asked to give you clearance as a current school governor

The GEL front page mentions a free 30-day trial of GEL. This is no longer open to Norfolk governors as we have bought into the online training for all our maintained schools.

From April 2011, the site will be freely available only for those schools who subscribe to Governor Services.

Model Policies

There have been many requests from governing bodies to provide model documents for the statutorily required policy statements for schools. In response to this Children's Services has now been licensed to publish a range of model documents on our website.

The models come from a book entitled 'Policies', produced by Adamson Publishing. Stephen Adamson is the Vice-chair of the National Governor's Association and the current Chair of the Norfolk Governors' Network. He is also a governor of a primary school in Norwich.

Whilst the model policies have been written by a range of education professionals, they do not always match the guidance offered by Norfolk Children's Services and Governor Services. The Whistleblowing Policy and the Complaints Procedure are two such cases. Norfolk advice is that schools

should continue to use the policies and procedures published on the Governor Services website.

Whilst governing bodies may choose to adopt some of the models as they are, we recommend that they will be best used as a starting point for discussion about a policy that fits your own school's requirements and practise.

For further information about GEL or the model policies contact:

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