

We are delighted to provide governors in Darlington with our new comprehensive training programme. Each term our programme includes a briefing for all governors and core training on Ofsted inspections, induction for new governors and keeping children safe in education, as well as new courses. The majority of our training is delivered online via Teams and is offered with the choice of attending from 1.00 to 2.30pm or 6.00 to 7.30pm on the same date unless otherwise stated. Please see below for full details. All courses are available to governors from schools who have purchased our annual training programme. If your school has not purchased our annual training programme, courses can be accessed on a pay as you go basis at £75 per governor per course attended. Please discuss with your school before booking.

Our training programme has been developed to support governors to be effective in their role, build on existing knowledge and learn about new areas to strengthen their skills and expertise.

FREE: Governor Briefing

The briefing is held each term and includes updates on local and national education and governance developments, the Local Authority papers for governing body meetings and governor training information. There is also the opportunity for governors to share information and discuss topical issues affecting Darlington schools.

Core training - Induction for new governors

This comprehensive session is an excellent opportunity for newly appointed governors to develop an understanding of their role, how governing bodies work and aims to provide governors with knowledge, skills, and confidence.

Core training - Preparing for Ofsted

This essential course will help governors develop their understanding of the inspection process, what Ofsted requires of the school and governing body and the evidence on which inspectors base their judgements. Governors will learn how to ask appropriate questions of the headteacher and senior staff, as part of their role in holding leaders to account.

Core training - FREE: Keeping Children Safe in Education

This 1 hour session is an excellent opportunity to keep up to date with the latest guidance to understand the roles and responsibilities of all those involved in safeguarding. Governors will be equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to monitor the effectiveness and impact of safeguarding arrangements in school.

Autumn 2024		
Preparing for Ofsted	Tuesday 24 September 2024 1 to 2.30pm or 6 to 7.30pm	Jane Edminson, Service Improvement Lead Newcastle City Council
FREE and UPDATED: Keeping Children Safe in Education	Tuesday 8 October 2024 1 to 2pm or 6 to 7pm	Ang Turnbull, Education Safeguarding Officer, Darlington Borough Council
Induction for new Governors	Tuesday 15 October 2024 5.30 to 7.30pm	Jane Edminson, Service Improvement Lead Newcastle City Council
NEW: Wellbeing for headteachers and chairs	Tuesday 22 October 2024 9.30am to 1pm	Sarah Woodburn and Andrew Scott Newcastle City Council
NEW: Governing self-review strategy	Wednesday 6 November 2024 1 to 2.30pm or 6 to 7.30pm	Lisa Noteyoung, Governance Support Service Manager Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
NEW: EHE in Darlington	Tuesday 19 November 2024 1 to 2.30pm or 6 to 7.30pm	Angie Ritchie, Elective Home Education Advisor Darlington Borough Council

NEW: Wellbeing for headteachers and chairs

We are delighted to be able to offer this new training opportunity regarding wellbeing for headteachers and chairs. Headteachers and their chair are both invited to attend this morning session which will firstly explore understanding tension, stress and anxiety with practical strategies in response. Following a mid-morning break, the 2nd part of the session will explore having difficult conversations and introduce skills and a framework to support colleagues through activities, videos and discussion points.

NEW: EHE in Darlington

The number of young people registered as elective home education (EHE) is increasing across the country. This new course is an excellent opportunity for governors to learn more about the local picture in Darlington and what EHE means for young people, families, schools and the local authority. Delivered by Darlington Borough Council's EHE Advisor, governors have the chance to develop a greater understanding about the processes and responsibilities of all those involved and know what to check back at school about their own EHE young people.

NEW: Governing self-review strategy

This session provides an opportunity to reflect on your own contribution to governance along with board impact. It will also outline what effective self review practice looks like and resources available, along with signposts to guidance you can access should you need further support.



Spring 2025

FREE: Governor Briefing	Wednesday 22 January 2025 6 to 7pm	Tony Murphy Assistant Director Education and Inclusion
Preparing for Ofsted	Monday 3 February 2025 6.45 to 7.45pm	Jane Edminson, Service Improvement Lead Newcastle City Council
NEW: EHE in Darlington	Tuesday 4 February 2025 1 to 2.30pm or 6 to 7.30pm	Angie Ritchie, Elective Home Education Advisor Darlington Borough Council
Induction for new governors (face to face in Newcastle)	Tuesday 4 March 2025 10am to 4pm	Jane Edminson, Service Improvement Lead Newcastle City Council
NEW: Expansion of childcare and wraparound; a governors' guide to the changes	Tuesday 11 March 2025 1 to 2.30pm or 6 to 7.30pm	Debbie Patterson, Curriculum and Standards Advisory Lead Darlington Borough Council
FREE AND UPDATED: Keeping Children Safe in Education	Tuesday 18 March 2025 1 to 2pm or 6 to 7pm	Ang Turnbull, Education Safeguarding Officer, Darlington Borough Council
NEW: Leading the team	Tuesday 25 March 2025 1 to 2.30pm or 6 to 7.30pm	Lisa Noteyoung, Governance Support Service Manager Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council

NEW: Expansion of childcare and wraparound; a governors' guide to the changes

As part of national programmes, changes are due to be introduced over the coming months with the expansion of childcare funded entitlements in early years and the availability of wraparound provision in primary schools. This session aims to provide governors with a comprehensive overview of all these changes and what they will mean for children, families, early years providers and primary schools in Darlington.

NEW: Leading the team

This session explores the role of the Governing Body Chair and the knowledge, attributes and skills needed for effective leadership, developing the team, and working with leaders effectively. The session will also offer advice in relation to the management of meetings, managing relationships around the table and practical elements of chairing.

Summer 2025

Preparing for Ofsted	Tuesday 29 April 2025 1 to 2.30pm or 6 to 7.30pm	Jane Edminson, Service Improvement Lead Newcastle City Council
NEW: LGBT+ Inclusion for governors	Tuesday 6 May 2025 1 to 2pm or 6 to 7pm	Jack Rivers, LGBT+ trainer Humankind
Induction for new governors	Tuesday 20 May 2025 5.30 to 7.30pm	Jane Edminson, Service Improvement Lead Newcastle City Council
NEW: Governor Briefing	Wednesday 4 June 2025 6 to 7pm	Tony Murphy, Assistant Director Education and Inclusion
NEW: Challenging accountability	Wednesday 11 June 2025 1 to 2.30pm or 6 to 7.30pm	Lisa Noteyoung, Governance Support Service Manager Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
FREE AND UPDATED: Keeping Children Safe in Education	Tuesday 17 June 2025 1 to 2pm or 6 to 7pm	Ang Turnbull, Education Safeguarding Officer Darlington Borough Council

NEW: LGBT+ Inclusion for governors

This one hour session will cover what governors need to know, what responsibility governors have, what the misconceptions around LGBT+ inclusion are in schools, the types of questions governors should be asking and how governors can get involved.

NEW: Challenging accountability

This session aims to support governors/trustees in holding school leaders to account for the performance of their school or trust. It will explore what appropriate support and challenge looks like, what questions should be asked of leaders and how governing boards can recognise the impact of their questions and conversations.

Times

All our training is offered with the choice of attending from 1pm to 2.30pm or 6pm to 7.30pm on the same date unless otherwise stated.

Delivery and Venue

The majority of our termly briefings and training sessions will be held virtually via Teams, unless otherwise stated in the course description. Delivery arrangements may be subject to change and will be confirmed ahead of each event.

Bookings

If your school has not purchased our annual training programme, courses can be accessed on a pay as you go basis at £75 per governor per course attended. Please discuss with your school before booking.