

AUTUMN TERM NEWSLETTER



GOVERNOR CONFERENCE 2025 EDITION

All are welcome to attend the S4S
Chair and Vice Chair briefings held on:

- Monday 12 January
- Tuesday 13 January
- Monday 20 April
- Tuesday 21 April

The following link can be used to book
a place:

Services 4 Schools
Governor Training



**A day of connection, learning,
and celebration. Empowering
Governors to lead with
confidence, challenge
effectively, and shape the
future of education.**



Reflecting on the Governor Conference 2025

We were delighted to welcome so many governors to this year's Governor Conference. Your presence, enthusiasm, and engagement truly made the day a success. Thank you to every governor who took the time to attend, contribute, and share in the discussions.

The conference was designed to support and inspire those who play such a vital role in the life of our schools, and we hope that you found the sessions, workshops, and networking opportunities both beneficial and thought-provoking. The day was a chance not only to hear from expert speakers and share best practice, but also to celebrate the dedication and commitment that governors bring to their schools and communities every single day.

This special edition of the newsletter looks back on the highlights of the conference, capturing the key messages, celebrating our award winners, and sharing the moments that made the day so memorable. You'll also find the Governor Training Schedule at the back of this edition, outlining upcoming opportunities to build on your knowledge and further strengthen your role.

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What happened on the day

● 9:15 am – 9:45 am	Arrival and Refreshments
9:50 am – 10:00 am	Welcome to the event
10:00 am – 10:45 am	Speaker – Regional Director for the West Midlands
10:45 am – 11:15 am	Speaker – Andy Chell – Effective Challenge
● 11:15 am – 11:30 am	Break and Refreshments
11:30 am – 12:00 pm	Speaker – Charlotte Harding – NGA
12:00 pm – 12:45 pm	Workshops KCSIE Updates 2025 (subject to the draft guidance being available) Preparation for Ofsted Effective Link Governor Visits
● 12:45 pm – 1:30 pm	Lunch & Pitch side Photo
1:30 pm – 2:30 pm	Speaker – Adrian McClean The Importance of DEI in Governance
2:30 pm – 3:00 pm	Governor Awards
3:00 pm	Close



GOVERNOR CONFERENCE 2025 EDITION

Our trainers:

Andy Chell

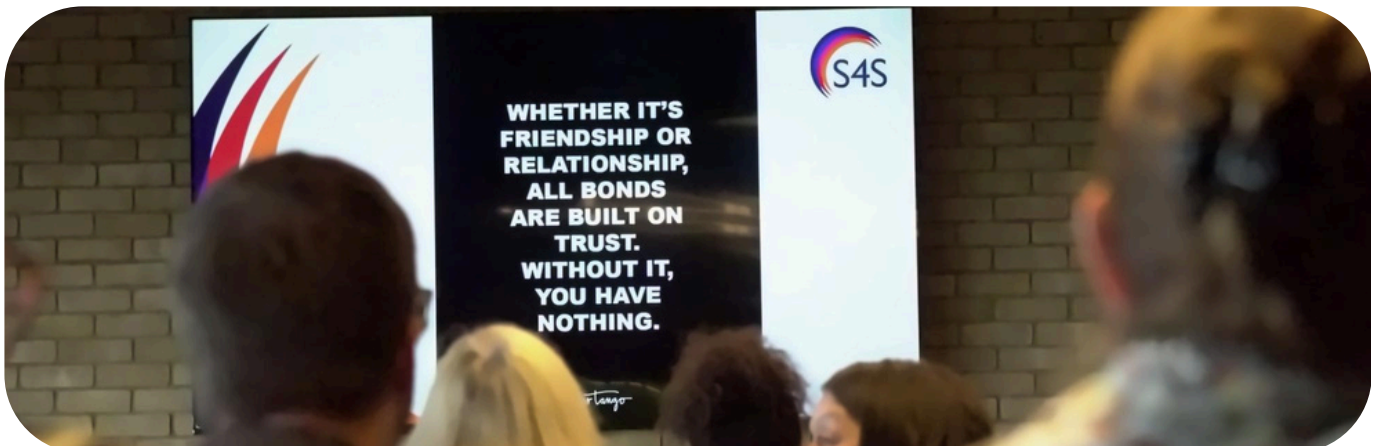


With over 20 years of experience in school governance, I bring a deep understanding of strategic leadership in educational settings. As one of the original National Leaders of Governance, I have a strong track record in supporting and developing governance structures, conducting External Reviews of Governance (ERGs), and delivering targeted governor training to ensure best practices.

My extensive experience has given me insight into the complexities of governance, from accountability and compliance to the strategic oversight needed to drive school improvement.

I spent two years as Interim CEO of a Multi Academy Trust, so have a profound understanding of the balance between operational aspects and strategic insight.

In my professional capacity as Director of Curriculum at a university, I lead on leadership and management degree apprenticeships, which provides me with a strong background in shaping effective leadership in educational contexts. This dual perspective — combining governance expertise with a focus on leadership development — enables me to bring a unique and informed approach to the reviews I conduct, ensuring that schools are well equipped to meet both their immediate challenges and long-term goals.



GOVERNOR CONFERENCE 2025 EDITION

Our trainers:

Adrian Mclean



Adrian McLean is an educator, speaker, coach, and author who challenges leaders to put character, diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging at the centre of leadership and governance. With a background spanning schools, leadership development and business, he blends lived experience with practical wisdom to cut through theory and get to what really drives impact.

Adrian is the author of the forthcoming book, *The 10 Character Commandments of Leadership*, a book that fuses culture, values, and leadership insight into a framework for lasting change. Known for his straight-talking style and ability to connect across communities, he equips leaders to move beyond policies and slogans toward integrity-driven action.



GOVERNOR CONFERENCE 2025 EDITION

Our trainers:

Stuart Smith



I've worked in a variety of Birmingham schools throughout a career which spanned thirty years. I was a headteacher for fourteen years and possess a range of knowledge and experience in areas such as strategic leadership; change management; the recruitment, management and development of staff; governance; financial management; premises management and building effective relationships with external partners.

My second and final headship was at a Church of England primary school where I spent ten very happy years. Along with the key responsibilities referred to above, I led significant organisational change such as managing the expansion from one to two form entry and leading the conversion from Voluntary Controlled to Voluntary Aided status. Throughout this time, the school was able to maintain standards above those found nationally and secured successive 'Good' Ofsted judgements as well as an 'Outstanding' judgement in its most recent Church school inspection.

I have acted as a mentor to new headteachers and currently act as an external adviser for Headteacher performance management and as a School Improvement Partner. In addition to these experiences, I was a local official within the Birmingham branch of the National Association of Headteachers (NAHT) for many years and supported colleagues across a range of areas related to their roles.

I have a realistic understanding of the responsibilities that school leadership brings and the challenges faced by schools in the current educational climate. I believe that my recent experience as a headteacher, alongside the wider perspectives gained beyond my own school, enable me to have an insight into the type of support that is helpful and welcomed by school leaders.

I take great pride in building positive relationships with colleagues and offer Governing Boards the following services:

- External adviser for Headteacher Performance Management

Training and briefings in the following areas:

- The role of governors regarding school inspections
- Key provisions in the forthcoming Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act
- Acting as an independent investigator in disciplinary or grievance procedures.

Award Winners

Critical Friend Award

Tess Argyle – Parkfield Primary School

Effective Challenge Award

Claire Hodgkins – Mesty Croft Primary School

Effective Governance Award

Debbie Anslow – Uplands Primary School

Parental Engagement Award

Carol Hunt – New Invention Primary School

Significant Contribution Award

Kevin Maycock – Penk Valley Academy Trust

Significant Contribution Award

Andrew Fisher – Berrybrook / Dunstall Hill Primary Schools

New Governor Award

Nicola Blackham – St Luke's Primary School

Innovation Award

Jackie Money – Low Hill Primary School

Special Recognition Award

Barry Thorndyke – St Giles CofE Primary School



Quotes from Award Winners

Receiving the award, I felt my contributions were seen, appreciated and valued. It is a voluntary unpaid role which requires commitment and integrity, so I view it as a way of acknowledging my credibility as a governor.

Jackie Money – Innovator Award

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It was a real honour and surprise to receive this award for Parental Engagement. As a Governor of many, many years' experience, I realise the importance of engaging with the parents and carers of the children in our school. Parental engagement is important for our school because by fostering a strong and open relationships with families our children will achieve the best outcomes in their time with us.



To receive this award was a real validation that the time and effort spent attending events, meetings and workshops alongside parents and writing regular newsletters to them has been worthwhile. To be a visible and engaged part of our school is very special to me and I look forward to hopefully continuing this for many years to come.

Carol Hunt – Parental Engagement Award

It was a bit of a shock to receive this award from S4S, as I had no idea whatsoever that I had been put forward for it. I couldn't quite believe that I had heard correctly when my name was called out and kept looking at the faces on my table for confirmation, much to Mr Downing's amusement! However, I was absolutely delighted to be acknowledged by Mrs Robinson, as the essence of being a "critical friend" is about balancing support, being able to challenge and a good relationship.

I am passionate about my role as Chair of Governors at Parkfield Primary and I was truly honoured to receive the Critical Friend Governor Award. However, even though the award is personal, this recognition reflects my commitment and that of our entire governing body to working in the best interests of our pupils, because it's only through teamwork that I believe we achieve success.

Tess Argyle – Critical Friend Award

WHAT OUR GOVERNORS SAID...

"Great conference, very informative. Lots of food for thought and it made me reflect."

"After 29 years as a governor and experience in 3 schools I am still amazed at how much there is always to learn from these conferences."

Well done for providing an excellent set of speakers who were engaging and presented superbly."



"Excellent day, really insightful and organised."



"Well organised and excellent information given from the variety of speakers. Good food for thought and to reflect on my own practice. Thank you for a great day."

Training Programme

Importance of Governor training

Governor training is important because it provides Governors and Trustees with the knowledge, skills, and crucially the confidence they need to fulfil their statutory duties and make effective decisions that support and challenge their school. Our Governor training courses will ensure that your Board is compliant with the latest guidance and legislation. The sessions will develop and enhance Trustee and Governors' knowledge, skills and confidence.

For the convenience of attendees, our training sessions are held online, except for Safer Recruitment which is an all-day session with workbook/activity-based content. However, we can offer in person, bespoke training where required.

The 2025/26 Training Programme is our most comprehensive offer yet and we have introduced a number of new sessions.

For further information, please contact our Training and Development Manager at jodie.richards@services4schools.org.uk or our Training and Development Practitioner at linda.evans@services4schools.org.uk

Click on the courses below for further information and booking 

MONDAY 13TH OCTOBER 5:30 PM – 7:00PM
ADVANCED ACADEMY FINANCE

THURSDAY 6TH NOVEMBER 10AM – 11AM
AN INTRODUCTION TO GOVERNANCE - MAINTAINED SCHOOLS

TUESDAY 14TH OCTOBER 6:30 PM – 8:00PM
RELATIONSHIPS & SEX EDUCATION (RSE): THE ROLE OF GOVERNORS

MONDAY 10TH NOVEMBER 9:30AM – 11:30AM
ATTENDANCE AND SAFEGUARDING: A GOVERNOR'S STRATEGIC ROLE

THURSDAY 16TH OCTOBER 6:00 PM – 7:30PM
AN INSPECTOR CALLS...OFSTED INSPECTIONS DURING 2025/2026

TUESDAY 11TH NOVEMBER 5:30PM – 7PM
MAINTAINED SCHOOL BUDGET FOR BEGINNERS

MONDAY 20TH OCTOBER 10:00 AM – 11:00AM
A GOVERNOR'S GUIDE TO ONLINE SAFETY

TUESDAY 11TH NOVEMBER 5:30PM – 7:30PM
ADVANCED GOVERNANCE

TUESDAY 21ST OCTOBER 5:30 PM – 7:00PM
ADVANCED SAFEGUARDING

WEDNESDAY 19TH NOVEMBER 5:30PM – 7:30PM
EFFECTIVE CHALLENGE

TUESDAY 21ST OCTOBER 5:30 PM – 7:30PM
A GOVERNOR'S ROLE IN HEALTH AND SAFETY

TUESDAY 25TH NOVEMBER 10AM – 11AM
EFFECTIVE LINK GOVERNOR VISITS

TUESDAY 4TH NOVEMBER 1:30PM – 3PM
ANTI-BULLYING - A GOVERNORS INTRODUCTION

WEDNESDAY 26TH NOVEMBER 6:30PM – 8PM
A GOVERNORS INTRODUCTION TO FOOD IN SCHOOLS

Got feedback? What would you like to see at a future conference?

Email Linda Evans at



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Contact us:

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Enabling you to educate

