



*In this week's edition...*

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## Policies

Please note that the Equalities And Diversity Policy will be issued to schools later this week.

## Consultation on the Health and Safety Policy

This is a gentle reminder that the consultation on our updated Health and Safety Policy ends on the 12th May. This is a really important policy and we would like to encourage Headteachers and School Business Managers to participate in this consultation. We would also like Chairs of Local Governing Bodies to ensure that the consultation is reported to their LGB and any response from the LGB is noted in their minutes. Chairs may wish to identify a member(s) of the LGB to lead on making a response to share the workload and benefit from governor skills. The Headteacher and Chair of the LGB may also want to consider sharing the consultation with other stakeholders.

Please submit your comments on the consultation to Diane Logan at [dlogan@lsp.org.uk](mailto:dlogan@lsp.org.uk). If you would like to submit changes to the policy, please highlight your changes or make them using tracked changes and also send them to Diane.

## Benchmarking data

We have been reviewing the Self-Assessment Dashboards based on the outturn data for 2021-22 and have discovered that there are some discrepancies with the data - notably in-year position and total revenue balances. We have reviewed the data supplied to the ESFA at year end via the Academy Accounts Return, and that all looks fine. We have raised a query with the ESFA.

We would therefore recommend that you do not use the dashboards or benchmarking until further notice. Apologies for the inconvenience this is going to cause. This is, of course, the time of year we would encourage you to review your financial benchmarking / dashboards.

We will get back to you as soon as we can.

## Additional SCA funding

Thank you to all of the schools that submitted an application for additional SCA funding. The Trustees have now approved the allocation of these resources, and schools have been informed.

This process provides a fantastic opportunity to fund projects that could have a huge impact on the outcomes or wellbeing of children, young people, or staff but that are not likely to be prioritised for SCA funding for a considerable number of years.

14 schools applied for a total of 26 projects, amounting to over £125k from the budget of £50k. 11 projects have been approved and include some really exciting projects such as:

- developing a designated outdoor learning and pond eco area to be used as a resource to support learning and environmental projects
- refurbishment of staff welfare area

There will be a further opportunity to apply for this fund next year and schools are encouraged to do so.

## Admissions

Please note that for North Somerset primary schools, we will be fully delegating all admissions tasks to the LA team. If anyone would prefer to handle in year admissions themselves, could they please contact Gary ahead of the May 26<sup>th</sup> deadline.

## An opportunity to register to receive a free air quality monitor

Schools have been invited by the DfE to register for a free air quality monitor, linked to a web app where teachers and pupils can view and use the data.

SAMHE (pronounced 'Sammy' - Schools' Air Quality Monitoring for Health and Education) is a new DfE supported research project that brings together scientists, pupils, and teachers to help us understand indoor air quality in UK schools.

Learn more and sign up on the [SAMHE website](#).

## New Business Continuity and Critical Incident Plan Template

Following consultation, the [attached new template](#) was agreed upon by trustees and is now available to use.

As we do not want to cause unnecessary work, if your school does not currently have a plan, please use this template to get one in place by the end of the academic year. For schools that already have a plan, please use the new template when it is next reviewed (or earlier if you wish).

As always, I am happy to answer any queries or provide support if it helps.

Neill Bird.