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## Introduction

Dear all,

Last week was Volunteers' Week and we have our Governance Conference on Thursday this week, so it is timely for me to say a direct word of thanks to all of you involved in governance across our Trust. School leadership would be different, and worse-off, but for the challenge and scrutiny of governance. I know how much time that I and others in my team spend in considering how we present issues to our Trustees, anticipating their challenge, exploring the data angle that we know they will raise. Most of this actually plays out in meetings, but I often think that governance, when it is effective, works just as effectively between the meetings. My colleagues in headship will all feel this too; it helps us give our best game.

At our conference on Thursday, we will be saying a big thank you to two LGB Chairs: Christine Dyer at Whitchurch and Pauline Davis at Golden Valley. Both have played enormous roles in the recent histories of their schools and have worked in true partnership with their governing boards, their school leaders and colleagues from the Central Team to oversee a time of rising standards, outcomes and reputation for their schools. They could both point to some challenging moments along the way. That story of service is worked out week by week in each of our schools, and I, and all the leaders in our schools, appreciate what our Trustees and Governors do.

Our keynote speaker on Thursday is Andy Spens, who is Head of Professional Learning at the [National Society for Education](#) (The C of E Education Office has reverted to its old name!). Andy will be talking about the vision for the flourishing of schools that CST, the Catholic Education Service and the National Society are promoting. The recent joint paper has already been circulated to those attending our governance conference and can also [be found here](#).

At the conference I will also be speaking about the forthcoming review of our approach to delegation and my thoughts about focussing local governance more on the areas that the Board of Trustees doesn't primarily address. I have also written a short paper that has been sent round by email (to Heads and Chairs) but can also [be read here](#). I am sure that some of you will have spotted that I have launched a major review at a moment, for when we have a new Lead on Governance (Sarah Cran) coming into post and there to take on the work. She certainly won't be bored!

With best wishes,

*Gary Lewis, Chief Executive*

## Policies: Updated Staff Anti-Bullying and Anti-Harassment Policy

The Trust-wide Staff Anti-Bullying and Anti-Harassment policy has been updated to reflect the changes in law around responsibilities for preventing sexual harassment for employers.

A copy of the new policy has been published and uploaded [to Folder](#) (*\LSP Policies\HR Policies*), as well as the Employee Self Service (ESS) portal so it can be accessed by all staff. Please ensure you refer to the latest version of this policy.

A reminder that there is also a video and some slides for delivering training to your staff on sexual harassment, which can be found in the HR Secure Team Area. As employers we have a statutory duty to train staff on this issue.

If you have any questions please contact the [Central HR Team](#).

## Policies: Consultation on SEND Policy

The LSP SEND Policy needs to be reviewed on a yearly basis. There are minimal proposed changes this year but the ones that have been made are listed on the front sheet and highlighted yellow through the [draft policy document](#).

We are still awaiting the national SEND changes as well as waiting for the result of the North Somerset funding consultation. We may need to do a mid-point review in the light of the changes as they come in next year.

All are welcome to give any feedback or views on the [draft SEND policy](#). Headteachers please share this article with your SENDCo. Please [email me with your thoughts](#) by 9.00am on Friday 4 July.

The policy will be ratified by Trustees in their meeting at the end of July and published in time for September 2025.

*Debbie Coker, Director of Inclusion*



## Allocation of SIPs in the Primary Phase for 2025-2026

As discussed in Primary Headteacher meetings recently, we have ensured a two year period of stability in School Improvement Partners (SIP) to ensure that schools maintain consistent support, especially given the number of Ofsted inspections we have had in the last year. As the Trust has grown over the last year we have stretched our capacity in the Central Education Team to ensure we were able to enact what we set out to achieve. As we come to plan for the 2025-26 academic year we have moved some of our SIPs allocations around.

We are really pleased to be growing and strengthening our SIP capacity in the primary phase next year to support the additional schools in our Trust. Chris Chamberlain who is currently the National Director for Primary Schools with Oasis Academy Trust will be joining the team as Senior Primary Advisor - he brings with him a wealth of knowledge and skill which we know will be useful in supporting our Trust schools. Furthermore, Catrin Battista (Headteacher of St Peter's C of E Primary), Fran Martin (Headteacher of St Andrew's C of E Primary) and Victoria Reyes (Headteacher of Whiteoak Academies) will also be joining the team as School Improvement Advisors (SIAs). This marks an exciting next step in our Trust where we can begin to share the excellent knowledge and skills of our Headteachers to provide support to others.

Scheduling of SIP visits for 2025-26, as well as other key activities involving Headteachers and the Central Team, will be taking place over the next few weeks. Headteachers will be emailed their allocations so these can be added to diaries in due course.

Where there has been a change we will be working closely as a team to ensure there is a smooth handover - if you have any questions please get in touch.

*Neil Lankester, Director of School Improvement*

School name	SIP 2025-2026
Churchill C of E Primary School	Debbie Coker
Winford C of E Primary School	
Easton C of E Primary School	
St Andrews C of E Primary School	
High Down Federation	Janine Ashman
Northleaze C of E Primary School	
Ubley and East Harptree C of E Primary Schools Federation	

*(Continued...)*

## Allocation of SIPs in the Primary Phase for 2025-2026

(Continued...)

School name	SIP 2025-2026
Yatton Schools Federation	Neil Lankester
Bishop Sutton and Stanton Drew Schools Federation	
Horfield C of E Primary School	
Fishponds C of E Primary School	
St Mary Redcliffe C of E Primary School	
Burrington and Wrington C of E Schools Federation	Chris Chamberlain
Golden Valley Primary School	
Flax Bourton C of E Primary School	
Hannah More and Grove Schools Federation	
St Peter's C of E Primary School	
Whitchurch Primary School	
Wraxall and St Mary's C of E Schools Federation	
Backwell Schools Federation	Neil Lankester and Catrin Battista
Blagdon Primary School	Neil Lankester and Victoria Reyes
Portishead Primary School	Neil Lankester and Fran Martin



## Risk Registers - update and review

This is a polite reminder that all schools should now have transferred their Risk Registers onto the template issued in July 2024 (this was published following the update of the Risk Management Policy). A live version of your Risk Register should be held in the **Business Continuity, Cyber Security & Risk Registers MS Team**, in your private school channel, and a copy downloaded when it needs to be shared with your LGB.

Please ensure that the table at the bottom of your Risk Register is fully completed, including the last review date. Recent checks have found that many of these dates have not been updated since the initial transfer took place or in some cases not all - this means there is no audit trail confirming regular review of this important document.

Please could all schools check that the review table at the bottom of their Risk Register has been completed correctly by **Wednesday 18 June** in advance of reporting to Trustees.

If you have any questions about your Risk Register please contact the [Trust Services](#) Team.

## Reminder: Operational Away Day Sign Up

A reminder to sign up to attend the LSP Operational Away Day at Leigh Court on Tuesday 8 July 2025. This is an all-day event and all School Business Managers, Office Managers, Estates Leads, and HR colleagues are strongly encouraged to attend to receive some key training and updates.

To confirm your attendance, so we can organise logistics and catering appropriately, please [sign up using this online form](#) by 12noon on Tuesday 17 June 2025.

Further session sign up details and confirmation of logistics will be sent out to those attending in due course.

## LSP Summer Newsletter - The Beacon

The next LSP Newsletter (The Beacon) will be published at the end of Term 6. The theme of this issue will be celebration. We would therefore love to include any positive and celebratory news stories (this could be school, staff, or pupil celebrations) from across the Trust.

If you have any news stories or photos from your school that you would like us to include, could you [please email them to me](#) by **Friday 4 July**. We will be also be creating a version of this newsletter to be distributed to all parents.

*Leah Evans, Communications Officer*



## Changes to FSM Eligibility

On 1 April 2018, Transitional Protection (TP) Free School Meals (FSM) was introduced. This meant that if a pupil's eligibility to means tested FSM ended, they would remain entitled to FSM, which would last until the end of the phase of education that they were in when TP ends. We now know that transitional protection for Free School Meals will end at the end of the 2025-26 academic year.

Additionally, from the start of the 2026/27 academic year, the DfE will introduce new eligibility criteria meaning that all children from households in receipt of Universal Credit will be entitled to receive a free meal.

Although we expect further guidance to be issued ahead of September 2026, it is apparent that the transitional protections outlined above will end alongside this change in threshold, with eligibility for *all* pupils reverting to whether they meet the eligibility criteria to be entitled to free school meals, *regardless of whether they were previously protected*.

Although the responsibility for checking the eligibility of applicants for free school meals rests with individual schools, all LSP schools buy into an FSM eligibility checking service with a local authority who carry out these checks via the DfE Eligibility Checking System. From the beginning of the 2026/27 academic year, schools will need to keep free school meal eligibility under continued review and should recheck eligibility for all pupils in receipt of free meals ahead of the October census. The DfE has advised that it does not expect rechecks of eligibility to be carried out more than once a year to prevent families from experiencing any sudden loss of entitlement during the school year. We have read nothing as yet to suggest that the October pupil census will not continue to be used to calculate Pupil Premium funding for your school with effect from the following April each year.

We will, of course, update schools when more information and guidance become available.

*Sue Warneford-Thomson, Schools Finance Support Manager*



## Primary PE and Sport Premium 2024/25 Reporting

The [DfE have confirmed](#) that the digital primary PE and Sport Premium expenditure reporting return will be live from 9.00am on Monday 9 June and will close on **Thursday 31 July at 5.00pm** and is **mandatory** for all primary schools. To support mandatory completion, DfE [guidance](#) will be made available later this month.

The digital form outlines how the school has used its PE and Sport Premium and the impact it has had on achieving the aims and objectives of the funding. The digital form contains a series of questions and free text boxes. Schools can enter details on how the PE and Sport Premium has been used to make improvements in the five key areas highlighted in this guidance. It can also be used to generate the necessary online report. The information gathered includes:

- figures on the overall spend
- what the funding has been spent on
- whether there is any unspent funding
- swimming and water safety attainment

To allow for comparisons to be made, when publishing the digital form download, schools must retain the previous year's written report on your school's website.



## ESS/iTrent URL Change

From Monday 9 June, the URL link used to access the Employee Self-Service (ESS) portal on iTrent has changed, meaning that all employees will need to use the new link below to get to their portal.

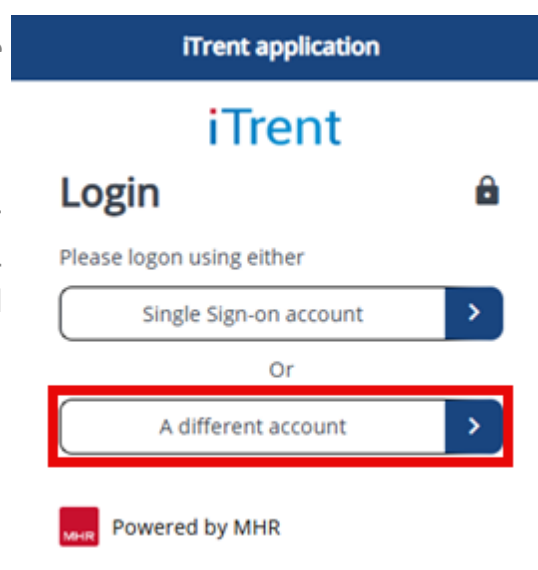
[https://ce0218li.webitrent.com/ce0218li\\_lass](https://ce0218li.webitrent.com/ce0218li_lass)

The new ESS link will be fully accessible for all employees who have already set up their ESS accounts without any alteration to their username and password.

Due to this change when you access the system either as an employee via the new ESS link above or as a manager or administrator via the original Admin link, the only change will be the look of the log in screen - as below.

Please note, all employees will need to choose the second option of “A different account”.

This update makes no change to the Multi Factor Authentication process and after choosing the “A different account” option, employees will be directed to their usual log in page to enter their normal username and password and then complete the MFA process.



Please can you ensure this message is advised to all staff members.

To summarise:

- 1.No change to login details of username and password
- 2.No change to the MFA process
- 3.No change to the Admin link
- 4.New ESS link for employee access
- 5.All employees logging either as employees, managers or admin will see the new option log in screen above - choose “A different account”

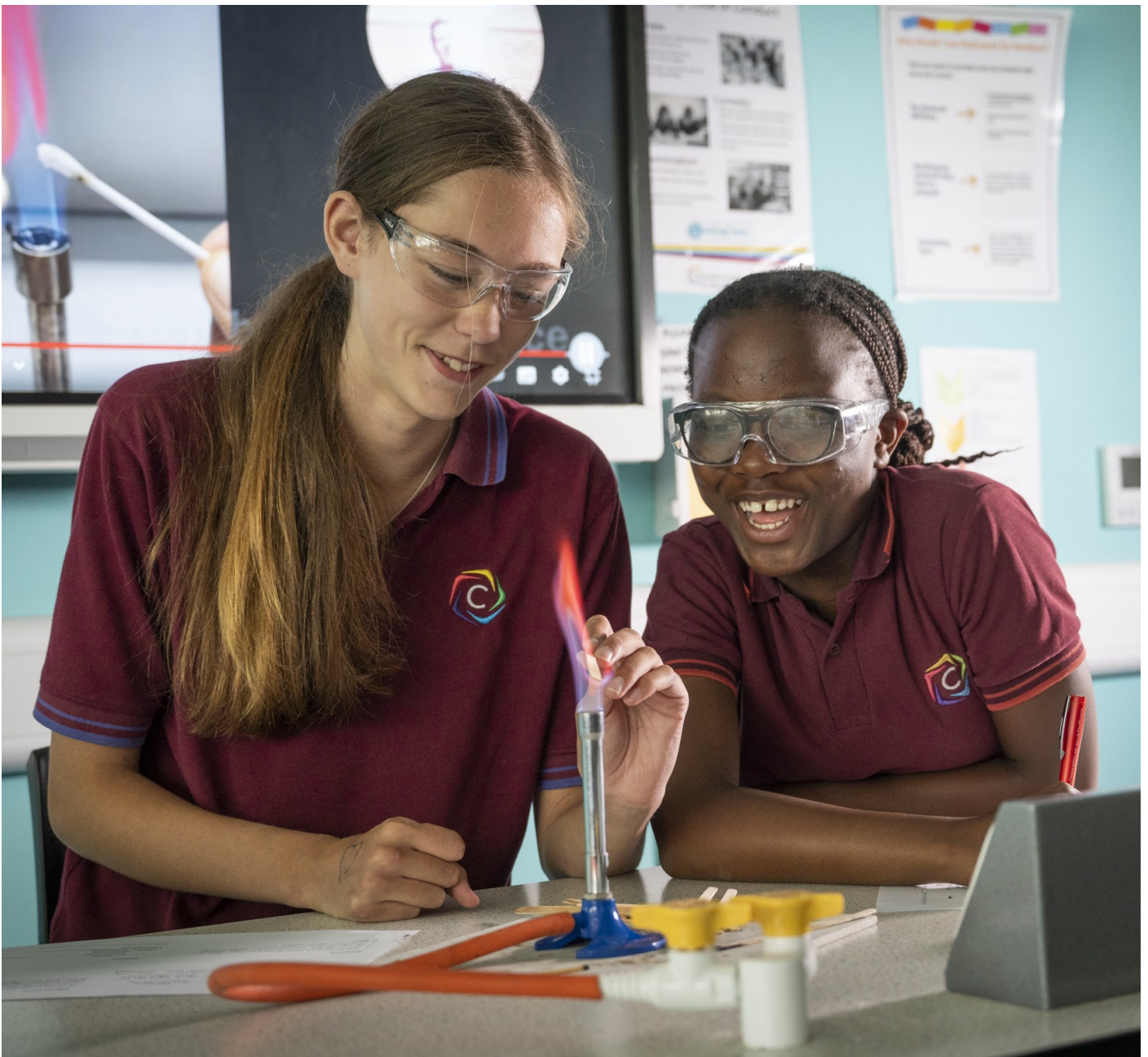
## Sustainability Climate Action Plans

Thank you to all the schools who have already completed the form to support the development of your Climate Action Plans.

A reminder that completing this form will support the draft of your Climate Action Plan, which will be written centrally, and communicated to you in September. Depending on the amount of actions you've done at school level, the form shouldn't take more than 10-20 minutes to fill out.

You can access [the form here](#). Please complete the form by **Friday 26 June**. This will allow for the draft Climate Action Plans to be prepared over the summer period.

If you have any questions about your Climate Action Plan or work in this area, please contact [Steph Franklin](#), Hub Estates and Sustainability Lead.



## LSP Clerking Vacancies

We are aware of five Clerking vacancies available across the Trust from September 2025 (mostly in, Portishead, Bristol and the Mendips Area). These are between 3-4 hours a week (depending on the specific school).

If any of our Clerks would be interested in one, or more, of these positions please make a formal expression of interest to [enquiries@lsp.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@lsp.org.uk) by 12.00noon on Tuesday 17 June.





## Upcoming Lighthouse Learning Sessions and CPD Networks

Please email [Lighthouse Learning](#) if you have any questions about the below events.

Agendas, Teams links (if required) and other resources will be emailed one week in advance of each network. The full programme of Lighthouse Learning CPD on offer for 2024-25 can be found on the [LSP website](#).

DATE	EVENT	AUDIENCE
Monday 16 June 1.00-4.00pm	<b>LSP Primary English Network</b> @ St Peter's Primary School	Primary English Leads
Tuesday 17 June 1.00-3.00pm	<b>LSP Church Schools Network</b> Online via MS Teams	Church School Leaders
Monday 23 June 1.00-4.00pm	<b>LSP Primary History Network</b> @ St Peter's Primary School	Primary History Leads
Monday 23 June 3.30-5.00pm	<b>LSP Primary Assessment Network</b> Online via MS Teams	Primary Assessment Leads
Tuesday 24 June 6.00-7.30pm	<b>Governance: Risk Management Webinar</b> <a href="#">Click here to register.</a>	Governors
Wednesday 25 June 3.30-4.30pm	<b>Trust-Wide Priority Pupil Network</b> Online via MS Teams	Priority Pupil Leads (All)
Monday 30 June 1.00-3.15pm	<b>LSP Primary AHT/DHT Network</b> @ St Peter's Primary School	Primary AHTs & DHTs
Monday 30 June 1.00-3.15pm	<b>Trust-Wide SEND Network</b> Online via MS Teams	SENDCos (All)
Monday 30 June 3.30-5.00pm	<b>LSP Primary Science Network</b> Online via MS Teams	Primary Science Leads

## Upcoming Lighthouse Learning Sessions and CPD Networks

<b>CONTINUED....</b>		
Wednesday 2 July 3.30-4.15pm	<b>Trust-Wide Attendance Network</b> Online via MS Teams	Attendance Leads (All)
Tuesday 8 July 6.30-8.00pm	<b>New Governor Training</b> Online via MS Teams	New LSP Governors
Wednesday 9 July 10.30-12.00noon	<b>New Governor Training</b> Online via MS Teams	New LSP Governors

## University of Bristol Teaching Learning & Curriculum Annual Lecture 2025

On Thursday 26 June, from 5.00–6.30pm, The University of Bristol will be hosting it’s annual Teaching Learning and Curriculum lecture with our very own Gary Lewis giving the annual lecture on the following subject:

*Governors, governance and government: Who are schools and Multi-Academy Trusts accountable to?*

The event is free to attend, and all are welcome.

Please see details below:

**UoB TLC Annual Lecture, with Dr Gary Lewis**

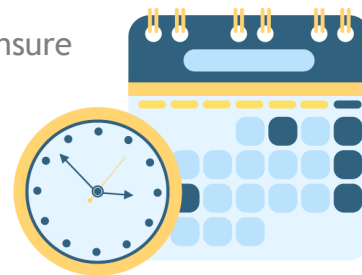
Thursday 26 June - 5.00 - 6.30pm

Room 1.20/2,21 (35 Berkeley Square, BS8 1JA)

[Click here to find out more](#)

# KEY DATES, DEADLINES & REMINDERS

These reminders do not replace the LSP Annual Planner so please ensure you are checking this regularly (link on next page).



## Key Dates

DATE	INFORMATION	FAO
Friday 26 June	Deadline to complete Climate Action Plan outline information for Central Estates Team. <a href="#">Click here to access the form you need to complete.</a>	Headteachers, SBMs & OMs
Tuesday 8 July	Operational Away Day	SBMs & OMs
Thursday 31 July @ 5.00pm	Deadline for primary schools to have completed the DfE PE and Sport Premium digital reporting document.	Heads, SBMs & OMs



## KEY LINKS

Please note the following links will only work for those who already have access to the relevant site or folder. If you feel you need to be given permission to access something please [let us know](#).

### Annual Planner 2024/25

Click to view the Annual Planner  
(Via Sharepoint)



### Annual Planner 2025/26

Click to view the Annual Planner for  
next academic year (Via Sharepoint)

### Bulletin Index

Click to access an index of  
previous bulletin articles



### Previous Bulletins

Click to access previous editions of the  
LSP Weekly News Bulletin

### The Beacon

Click to read the latest edition of  
the LSP Newsletter: The Beacon



## SHARE WITH US

Don't forget, you can submit your school news stories to  
be shared in our newsletters and on our social media.

Email your stories to: [newsletter@lsp.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@lsp.org.uk)