

EPHA Meetings Academic Year 2023/2024

Spring term 2024

WEST	Wednesday 28 February	Manor of Groves
SOUTH	Thursday 29 February	Greenwoods Hotel
N-EAST	Wednesday 6 March	Colchester Football Stadium
MID	Thursday 7 March	The Lion Inn, Boreham

Summer term 2024

WEST	Wednesday 12 June	Manor of Groves
SOUTH	Thursday 13 June	Greenwoods Hotel
N-EAST	Wednesday 19 June	Colchester Football Stadium
MID	Thursday 20 June	The Lion Inn, Boreham

Contact your Area Chair with any concerns, questions or issues you would like to discuss with colleagues.

DfE Workload Reduction Taskforce – early recommendations

The government launched the Workload Reduction Taskforce alongside the pay award in July 2023, as part of a commitment to reducing teacher and leader workload. Its work will support the government's target to reduce working hours for teachers and leaders by five hours per week within three years to enable them to focus on what matters most – high quality teaching. The group will make final recommendations to government, Ofsted, and school and trust leaders by the end of March 2024.

Early recommendations include:

- A review of performance related pay (PRP)
- An updated list of examples of administrative tasks that teachers should not be required to do. Particular attention is given to the question: does a task need to be done at all?
- Strengthening implementation of the previous workload review group recommendations and maximising sign up to the education staff wellbeing charter.

The group recommended an additional INSET day to focus on administration and workload. However, the Government has concluded that a further INSET day is not the right course of action, but remains committed to embedding a culture of sustainable workload, and will encourage schools to make use of the existing five INSET days for workload reduction.

EPHA is concerned that the recommendations may, possibly, have a beneficial impact on teacher workload, but it is harder to understand how leadership workload will be affected positively, particularly in light of current policy announcements from Government, including the forthcoming Wraparound Childcare strategy, and the expectations that all schools should be open to pupils for 32.5 hours a week.

We would welcome your thoughts on this issue, to enable the Executive to feedback any concerns to the Unions, LA and DfE.

EPHA Executive Meetings

The spring term EPHA Executive Meeting took place on 18 January 2024. Professional Officers from ESSET and ASHE attended the meeting to further discussions around special school outreach and the Year 6 – 7 transition arrangements. The Executive members also discussed their ongoing concerns about SEND funding, support and LA operations, including communication with the SENDOPs team.

Questions and concerns were taken forward to the LA meeting with the Education Director later in the morning. That agenda included:

- admissions delay and deferral guidance
- an update on the School Meals Advisory Service changes
- the introduction of wraparound childcare and the next steps for Essex schools
- the SEND sufficiency plan
- a safeguarding update from Jo Barclay

The minutes of the Executive meetings are available on the EPHA website.

<http://essexprimaryheads.co.uk/meetings>

CONTACT EPHA

Contact Pam Langmead, Professional Officer, at pam@langmead.me.uk
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EPHA CONFERENCE NEWS

HEADTEACHERS' CONFERENCE

Friday 22 March 2024 Chelmsford City Race Course

Keynote speakers and workshop presenters: Andrew Hall, Humphrey Walters, Nerys Hughes, Dave Harris, Dr Emma Kell and Helen Youngman.

There are still some places available, and we are really looking forward to holding the annual conference at the race course once again. Please contact Pam if you would like to attend.

Dates for the diary: This year's **Deputy Heads' conference** will be held on **Friday 11 October 2024** at the Colchester Football Stadium.

The **Small School Headteachers' Annual Conference** will be held on **Wednesday 23 October 2024**, at the Lion Inn, Boreham