



## Welcome to our governance news update

Hello and welcome to this week's newsletter. Thank you if you are supporting your school during the exam season which is often a particularly hectic time.

We are looking forward to seeing you at our briefing on 4<sup>th</sup> June. Governance related topics will include your role in schools' energy efficiency and the Armed Forces covenant. Details on how to book below.



**Tim Brock**  
Lead Officer for  
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### Contact us

For **governance** queries  
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### DfE and national updates

#### Improving behaviour in schools

Resources to support schools and trusts in developing, implementing and maintaining a whole-school behaviour culture have been published including a new audit and action planning tools.

[Improving behaviour in schools](#)



#### Supporting Service Children with SEND

Service Children In State Schools (SCISS) is a voluntary affiliated network of state-maintained schools in England that have any number of Service children on roll.

Following on from the really successful Voice of Schools Project in 2021, they had identified that there were some inconsistencies with SEND provision as children with SEND moved from one school to another. A range of school leaders, pastoral staff and SENDCos shared their views on how they viewed current provision and where they felt it could be improved to support Service children across England.

[Voice of Schools SEND Project | Service Children in State Schools \(sciss.org.uk\)](#)



#### School Uniform

Additional guidance has been added on procuring uniform supplies. Template documents have been provided.

[School uniforms: guidance for schools - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)



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## Responding to terrorism and other major incidents

New guidance has been issued on how education settings should prepare for and respond to terrorism and other major incidents.

Whilst the guidance is predominantly for school staff, schools are advised to consider whether to involve their governing body or academy trust, local authority, or local police, to either take an active part in your practice drill or live exercise, or to help evaluate it.

[Protective security and preparedness for education settings](#)



## Mental Health Awareness Week 2024

It is not long to go now until Mental Health Awareness Week, which runs **13-19 May**, on the theme of 'movement: moving more for our mental health'.

4 in 10 adults are currently not meeting the NHS recommended physical activity guidelines, but physical activity has many [proven](#) benefits for mental health. A range of free, NHS-evidenced support is available through the [Every Mind Matters website](#). We would recommend that these are signposted to staff to support their wellbeing.



## NGA Annual Governance Survey 2024 Now Open

A reminder to complete the NGA's annual survey of governors and trustees in state schools across England. This is a unique opportunity to have your say on the current state of school and trust governance and shape the future of governance at a national level.



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## Oxfordshire updates



### Buyback of traded services to schools (including Governor Services) open

The schools' buyback of traded services for 2024/25 is open.

Your board can sign up again for a year of **Governor Services training**, express an interest in the **Clerking Service** and subscribe to **GovernorHub**, the **NGA** and **OGA**.

We will be covering the cost of providing GovernorHub to maintained schools as in previous years.

We are pleased to offer membership of the National Governance Association (NGA) at a reduced rate to schools in Oxfordshire for the next academic year.

The Oxfordshire Governor Services advice line and resources on the Schools website remain free to access.

Please ensure that your board discusses the available options and informs the school business manager once the decisions have been reached.

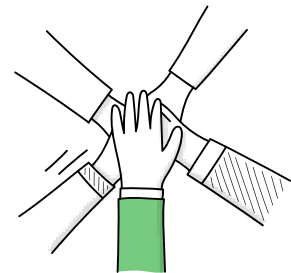
OCC Clerking  
Service

OCC Governor  
Services Training



### Director of public health annual report

This year's director of public health report highlights the health impacts of climate change and the positive benefits of climate action for individuals, families and communities. This report shows how important a connected health, wellbeing and climate strategy is in Oxfordshire. There is a clear link between healthier,



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happier communities and sustained climate action, and it is time we made the most of this opportunity.

[2023-24 Director of Public Health annual report | Oxfordshire County Council](#)

Key points which are most relevant to school governors and young people can be found on the following pages:

Pg 11 – Heat severity map

Pg 20/21 - Air quality

Pg 27 - Flooding

Pg 35 - Food

Pg 48 - Energy efficiency

Pg 49/50 - Sustainable travel

Pg 59-62 - Call for Action

## Governor Services Training

### Free Event – Governor Services Briefing

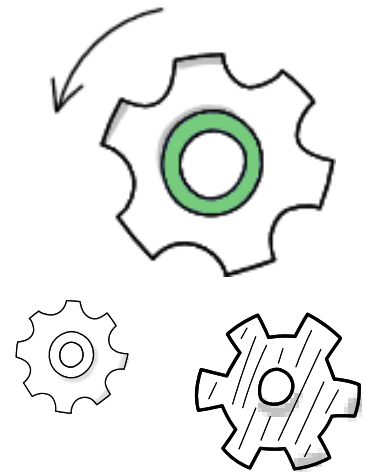
Oxfordshire County Council Governor Services will deliver a briefing for all governors on **4<sup>th</sup> June at 6pm**. The hour long session is free to attend but please do register so that you can be provided with a MS Teams link. Topics will be school governor specific and we aim to include an opportunity for feedback.

[Book here](#) or email [Governorservices@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Governorservices@oxfordshire.gov.uk) and request a place

### Summer term training programme

The Governor Services training programme for the summer term is underway.

[Find out more](#)



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### How to book

Training can be booked directly through [GovernorHub](#) for all maintained schools in Oxfordshire. Log into your account and click on the 'Oxfordshire Governor Services Training' tab.

If your school subscribes to training, there will be no additional charge for this training. All other bookings will be charged on a [pay as you use](#) basis.

For schools with no access to GovernorHub, bookings can be made by email to [governortraining@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:governortraining@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

You must provide a **name** and **email address** so we can add your booking to our system and send you the joining link.

### Charging for training

Please do check whether your board has subscribed to the training package before booking. Those who govern at schools that subscribe can register for as much training as they like at no additional cost.

For those who govern at schools that do not currently subscribe, there is a charge to attend and schools will be invoiced after the event. Here are our current [Pay as You Go rates](#)

Any briefings or events that are free for anyone to attend are clearly marked as such.



*...for everything you do for children in Oxfordshire*

Our next news update will be published on Friday 17th May 2024.

Hope you are able to enjoy the bank holiday weekend.

With very best wishes from

**The Oxfordshire Governor Services Team - Tim, Helen and Ruth**

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