

16 December 2022

Welcome to our last round up of governance news of 2022. We hope you have all managed to stay safe and warm in the wintry weather of the past couple of weeks.

Just a few items in this edition as schools break for the holidays.

Maintained Schools

Statutory Data - Updating GovernorHub

Thank you to all the chairs and clerks who responded to our email chasing confirmation that data is accurate and up to date on GovernorHub.

We are working our way through the queries and will be in touch as soon as possible.

If you haven't yet responded, please do try to get back to us in the new year.

All Schools

Get Information About Schools (GIAS) – Statutory update

A reminder that all maintained school governing bodies and academy trusts have a legal duty to provide all of the governance information requested on [this page](#) in so far as it is available to them.

The information can be downloaded in the correct form from GovernorHub. It is usually the school office who does the updates to GIAS.

Section 175/157 Statutory Safeguarding Return – DEADLINE TODAY 16TH DECEMBER 2022

Section 175 of the Education Act 2002 introduced statutory duties for schools/settings, governing bodies and local authorities with regard to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

HOW TO CONTACT US

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S.175 guidance, requires governing bodies to carry out an annual review of the school's policies and procedures and provide information to the local authority about how the duties set out in the guidance have been discharged.

Independent schools/settings and Academies are covered under Section 157 of the same.

The deadline for this year's return is **TODAY 16th December 2022**. Boards will need to have approved the return by this date.

[Safeguarding | Schools \(oxfordshire.gov.uk\)](https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/safeguarding/schools)

Education Commission update

As you are aware, an Education Commission, tasked with further improving educational outcomes for all children and young people, has been launched by Oxfordshire County Council.

The commission will speak to all interested and concerned parties about what a world class education system might look like for Oxfordshire and what needs to change to make it happen.

We asked for governor representation on the commission and were delighted by the response. Interest was high and the quality of response was strong. As a result of this and as an acknowledgement of the importance of school governance it was decided that two governors would be appointed. We will publish the full list of members in due course.

Those governors who self-nominated and were not appointed will be included in the consultation process.

UPDATED - Annual Schedule of Governing Board business

The Annual Schedule has been updated for the Spring and Summer terms. Changes are highlighted on the contents page [Governing Board Work | Schools \(oxfordshire.gov.uk\)](https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/governing-board-work/schools)

Governor Training

We have had a very busy autumn term delivering 25 training sessions to 880 attendees. We hope you have found the training valuable and been able to use it in your schools.

The [Spring term's training programme](#) is now available on GovernorHub.

Training can be booked by using the Oxfordshire Governor Services link on Governor Hub and then clicking on the [Training heading](#). For Governors without access to these pages bookings can be made:

- By email to GovernorServices@Oxfordshire.gov.uk
- By phone on 03300 249046

Both methods will require a name and email address so the booking can be added to our online system and the joining link sent to you. MS Teams is the software used for course delivery.

If your school subscribes to training through the buyback, there will be no additional charge. All other bookings will be charged (unless the course is provided free which will be stated) on a 'pay as you use' basis. More details can be found here: [Pay As You Use Costs](#)

Sessions are NOT recorded unless this feature is stated in the description.

We look forward to seeing you.

Governor Services will be operating throughout the festive break so please do get in touch if you need anything. We hope that you will all be able to find some peace and enjoy a couple of weeks without the responsibility of school governance weighing too heavily.

The next Governor Services News update will be published on 13th January 2023.

Have a wonderful break and thank you, as always, for everything that you do as a governor in Oxfordshire.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

With best wishes from

The Oxfordshire Governor Services Team
Tim, Joanne and Helen

