

Welcome to the first fortnightly round up of governance news. Our aim is to bring together all relevant updates and share best practice with you. The format will evolve, and we would be delighted to receive feedback.

STOP PRESS

Free EVENTS: Armed Forces' Children: the board's role - Network Meetings

On December 12th at 7pm we are running a free network group for governors and leaders in schools that have **pupils from military families**.

Oxfordshire has high numbers of military children and about half of our schools have at least one pupil who fits this category. With small groups of Service pupils in many of our schools, these children can easily be forgotten by boards. As part of the support for governors, trustees and directors across Oxfordshire, **Matt Blyton** (an adviser with over 25 years' experience of working with military families) will be leading this network group to:

- Provide an overview of the strengths that Service children bring to schools and the challenges they face
- Discuss the Government's Service Pupil Premium funding
- Introduce governors to an evidence-based toolkit to support them and school leaders to evaluate their provision (Thriving Lives toolkit)
- Give updates on the current projects and plans for development work in 2023
- Facilitate a forum for sharing good practice and exploring solutions to challenge

Legislation and National updates

Safeguarding - KCSiE & Prevent

Keeping Children Safe in Education was updated in September 2022. Please ensure that you have read it *this term* and clicked the button on your GovernorHub profile to confirm that you are up to date.

Prevent legislation was recently updated. As part of your safeguarding training, you are required to undertake Prevent training. This is an online module, provided by the DfE, which takes about an hour to complete. The training can be accessed [here](#).

We have produced an overview of safeguarding responsibilities for governors in Oxfordshire, which can be found [here](#).

HOW TO CONTACT US

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Green Book Pay Award confirmed for 2022/23

We're pleased to confirm the trade unions have agreed to the national employers pay increase of £1,925 per annum for 2022/23, with effect from 1 April 2022.

This applies to all members of staff on National Joint Council (NJC) terms and conditions (grades 1 -18) – sometimes called 'green book' pay scales

The £1,925 award across all pay scales is designed to ensure those on the lowest salaries benefit the most, with people on scale points one to three receiving a salary increase of more than 10 per cent.

The pay award will be backdated to 1 April 2022 and paid at the end of December, which is the earliest possible date for the payment to be processed.

As part of the same proposal, the national employers offered an additional one day's annual leave for staff on NJC terms and conditions (grades 1 -18) with effect from 1 April 2023, which has also been accepted.

No action required from schools on the leave aspect, employee records will be updated automatically by the IBC to incorporate the additional leave due.

New financial wellbeing services

Coming soon, all members of Oxfordshire County Council staff (including maintained and voluntary aided schools) will have access to expert financial support through an external organisation called Salary Finance. It provides:

- resources and advice to help manage your money;
- 'help to save' schemes which are deducted directly from your salary;
- responsible lending schemes; and
- advances prior to pay day on income already earned to help manage unexpected costs.

[Visit the Salary Finance website](#) for more information. We'll let you know when our access is set up.

Inspection Data Summary Report (IDSR) – Ofsted update

The updated inspection data summary report (IDSR) is now live and can be accessed here:

[Ofsted | Inspection Data Summary Report](#)

At this time, new multiplication table check data and two term absence for 2021/22 will be included in a future update.

For further information please see the IDSR guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/school-inspection-data-summary-report-idsr-guide>

All future updates to the IDSR will also be announced on the IDSR News Page: [IDSR: news and updates - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Maintained Schools

Statutory Data

Updating GovernorHub

As per our recent email to Chairs of Governors, now that many of you will have had your first board meeting of the academic year, please make sure you update GovernorHub with any changes to Chair/Vice chair, committee membership and other roles such as Safeguarding and Finance link governors. **Please reply to the email to confirm**

Terms of office

We have recently identified a few issues with governors' terms of office. This is particularly important when that person is the Chair – **if you aren't a governor, you cannot be chair of governors!**

We ask that you review your membership, including terms of office at least 3 times per year and ensure that you follow the appropriate procedures for either election or reappointment *before* terms of office end.

LA governor vacancies

There are a number of LA governor roles vacant across the maintained schools. [Here](#) is the process for filling LA vacancies. If you have a vacancy and you have a possible candidate in mind for the role, please email us and we will contact your county councillor on the board's behalf to facilitate the nomination. If you do not have a candidate, please get in touch and we will see if we can help you to fill the role.

Schools Financial Value Standard

The schools financial value standard (SFVS) helps to provide schools with assurance that they are meeting the basic standards necessary to achieve a good level of financial health and resource management.

The SFVS checklist asks a number of questions of governing bodies in six areas of resource management to provide assurance that the school is managing its resources effectively. This can be used to identify possible areas for change to ensure that resources are being used to support high-quality teaching and the best education outcomes for pupils.

The SFVS for your school needs to be completed and approved by the governing board before **10th February 2023** (note: this is later than in previous years)

[Schools Financial Value Standard \(SFVS\) | Schools \(oxfordshire.gov.uk\)](#)

All Schools

Section 175/157 Safeguarding Return

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.

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 **16th December 2022**. Boards will need to have approved the return by this date.

[Safeguarding | Schools \(oxfordshire.gov.uk\)](#)

Early Years DSL Forums

The Early Years Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) forums will take place three times a year via Teams meetings.

Chair of forum: Jo Lloyd (LADO) Supported by Helen Harnew (Foundation Years Advisory Officer)

These forums will provide opportunities for DSLs to learn more and discuss aspects of their roles and responsibilities, share good practice and gain support and advice relating to local safeguarding issues and changes in legislations.

Aim: To help to build a stronger safeguarding culture in early years settings to promote safer environments for children.

Dates:

29/11/22 7pm-8.30pm

28/3/23 -7pm-8:30pm

20/6/23 -7pm-8:30pm

Booking a place: <https://educationservices.oxfordshire.gov.uk/Event/186071>

Cost: FREE

Link to Annual Schedule of Governing Board business

A reminder: To help you plan your work throughout the year, please follow the link to the annual schedule of governing board business

[Annual schedule 2022 23 FINAL v1.pdf \(oxfordshire.gov.uk\)](#)

Governor Training

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.

Thank you for everything you do!

The next update will be posted on 2nd December 2022 and if you have any feedback, please do get in touch with us in the meantime

With best wishes from

The Oxfordshire Governor Services Team - Tim, Joanne and Helen

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