

Welcome to the first governance newsletter of the new academic year. We hope you've all had an enjoyable summer.

The autumn term will be busy and the number of updates and reminders is significant. We hope that you will find it useful to have them all together in one place.

As always, there is much to do and we are here to provide support and guidance.

DfE and national updates

Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSiE)

The September 2023 version of the Keeping Children Safe in Education statutory guidance is now in force, replacing previous versions.

[Keeping children safe in education - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/keeping-children-safe-in-education)

Updates that boards should be aware of include:

- ensuring that schools meet IT monitoring and filtering standards
- clarification that schools should inform shortlisted candidates of online searches
- signposting to cyber security standards
- further guidance relating to external organisations using school premises

Those governing must read and understand all of KCSiE (part two sets out their responsibilities). Boards should ensure that staff who work directly with children read *at least* part one.

If you use GovernorHub, check the confirmation box on your personal profile so that your board can easily keep track of compliance.

It is a statutory requirement for all governors to undertake Level 2 Safeguarding training every 3 years. Our next [Level 2 Safeguarding training for governors](#) takes place on **Tuesday 26th September 2023**

Attendance

Guidance has been updated to provide a 'toolkit for schools: communicating with families to support attendance', 'Annex A:



HOW TO CONTACT US



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example attendance letters and emails to parents and carers' and a link to guidance on school attendance for parents.

[Working together to improve school attendance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

[Letter to school leaders on mild illness and school attendance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

School suspensions and permanent exclusions

The updated guidance on 'Suspension and permanent exclusion from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England, including pupil movement' comes into effect from 1 September 2023. Important changes to remote meeting arrangements are included.

[School suspensions and permanent exclusions - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

Ofsted

New posts published during August on the Ofsted: schools and further education & skills (FES) blog

[School inspection update September 2023 - changes to how we inspect schools - Ofsted: schools and further education & skills \(FES\) \(blog.gov.uk\)](https://blog.gov.uk)

[More parental complaints don't mean more inspections - Ofsted: schools and further education & skills \(FES\) \(blog.gov.uk\)](https://blog.gov.uk)

Nursery and Childminder funding

Nurseries and childminders across the country will be paid more from 1st September for every government-funded hour they provide to parents.

[Childcare settings receive cash boost as funding rates increase - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

Early Years framework

The new [statutory framework for the early years foundation stage](https://www.gov.uk) applies from 4 September 2023.

[Development Matters - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk), non-statutory guidance has been updated to reflect that an updated version of the early years foundation stage framework has been published.

Parental Responsibility

Guidance for local authorities and schools dealing with adults who have legal rights and responsibilities for a child has been updated to include guidance on the role of the 'corporate parent', releasing GCSE results to a parent and notifying separated parents about a child moving school.

[Parental responsibility: guide for schools and local authorities - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

Period products in schools and colleges

Guidance for schools on providing free period products for pupils has been updated with information on the scheme for the 2023-2024 academic year. The eligibility for the scheme remains unchanged. [Period products in schools and colleges - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

Oxfordshire updates

Annual Schedule of Governing Board Business

A reminder of where to find the [Annual schedule of governing board business 2023-24](#) to help you plan the work of the governing board and meeting agendas for the year.

GovernorHub/GIAS updates – maintained schools

Please ensure that GovernorHub and Get Information About Schools (GIAS) are updated following any changes to board membership or roles. We regularly review GovernorHub records in line with our statutory responsibilities.

Parent and staff governor elections

A reminder to review your board membership and request that your headteacher runs parent and staff governor elections early this term if you have any vacancies. Governors in these positions on the board cannot be reappointed, a new election process must be carried out at the end of each term of office. The same nominee can, however, be re-elected by the relevant body for multiple terms of office.

[Parent governor election process](#)

[Staff governor election process](#)

Chair and vice chair elections

As many boards will be conducting chair and vice chair elections at their first board meeting of the year, we have produced new guidance on how to conduct those elections, along with some FAQs about the roles.

[Chair and vice chair election process](#)

Please do let us know if you have a new chair of governors so that we can ensure they are supported in their role.

Our next Successful Chairing course takes place on **23rd November 2023**. Follow the link to [book a place on GovernorHub](#), or contact us via email.

NB if your chair's term of office as a governor has ended, they are no longer a governor and therefore they cannot be chair of governors.

Please ensure that you check when your chair and vice chair's term of office end so that you do not end up in this tricky situation.

Pecuniary Interests update

Your annual prompt to update and re-confirm your pecuniary and business interests. We have provided forms for you to use here, or you can use them as a prompt and record your interests on your individual GovernorHub profile.

[Declaration of Interests form](#)

[Register of business interests for publication](#)

This information must be added to the school's website.

Governor Services training programme

Our [Autumn term training programme](#) is now available with booking open on GovernorHub for all courses. See below for details of how to book.

We kick off the year with [Induction A](#) training on 20th September 2023.

If you have any suggestions regarding training that you would like us to deliver, please do let us know by writing to governorservices@oxfordshire.gov.uk

How to book training

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



...for everything you do for children in Oxfordshire

Our next news update will be published on Friday 22nd September 2023.

With very best wishes from

The Oxfordshire Governor Services Team - Tim, Joanne and Helen