



Welcome to our governance newsletter.

We hope that you continue to find these updates valuable. Do get in touch if there are topics you would like us to cover.

DfE and national updates

Disadvantage

“Oxfordshire County Council recognises that it needs to reflect and reset ways of working between the Council and schools in the best interests of all children, particularly the most disadvantaged. “
([The Education Commission Report](#) Sept 2023)

Governors and trustees are expected to:

“consider how the school is going to raise standards for all children[including]... those receiving free school meals and those who are more broadly disadvantaged”

[The Governance Handbook](#)

The EEF (Education Endowment Fund) has published a suite of new resources, to help you **plan, monitor, and implement** an effective Pupil Premium strategy.

The EEF’s updated Guide to the Pupil Premium focuses on balancing the essential ingredients of an effective strategy – **high quality teaching, targeted academic support, and wider strategies** – alongside a five-point plan to help you sustain it in the long-term.

[The EEF Guide to the Pupil Premium | EEF](#)
(educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk)

Senior mental health lead training

Find out how your school or college can apply for a grant and access DfE quality assured training to help develop a whole school or college approach to mental health and wellbeing.

The list of DfE assured senior mental health lead training courses has been updated.

[Senior mental health lead training - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

HOW TO CONTACT US



Tim Brock
Lead Officer for
Governance



Helen Tate
Governor Support
Officer

For **Governance** queries
email:
governorservices@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Phone: 0330 0249046

For **Clerking** queries
email:
Clerking.service@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Oxfordshire updates

External Reviews of Governance

An External Review of Governance (ERG) examines the effectiveness of the board in relation to the six features of effective governance as set out in the Governance Handbook: strategic leadership; accountability; people; structures; compliance and evaluation.

[Governance handbook and competency framework](#) (gov.uk)

[External reviews of governance: guide for schools and academy trusts](#) (gov.uk)

OCC Governor Services has extensive experience of external reviews of governance, and commissioning them, for maintained school governing bodies and academy trust boards.

More information can be found here: [External review of governance | Schools](#) (oxfordshire.gov.uk)

To commission a review, please contact GovernorServices@Oxfordshire.gov.uk

Chairing the governing board

The autumn term is a time of change for many governing boards.

As a reminder, here are the regulations with regard to the appointment of chair and vice chair. It is for the board to elect a chair and vice chair from among their number.

From [The School Governance \(Roles, Procedures and Allowances\) \(England\) Regulations 2013](#) (legislation.gov.uk):

Election of the chair and vice-chair

*7.—(1) Subject to section 67 of the EIA 2006 (power of Secretary of State to appoint additional governors), the governing body **must** elect a chair and a vice-chair from among their number.*

*6) Where a vacancy arises in the office of the chair or vice-chair, the governing body **must** elect one of their number to fill that vacancy at their next meeting.*

(7) Where the chair is absent from any meeting or there is at the time a vacancy in the office of the chair, the vice-chair is to act as chair for all purposes.

If governors do not feel that they have sufficient experience to become chair, please do be reassured that we are here to support you – there are many resources on GovernorHub, and there is our advice line, both phone and email.

Our next [Successful Chairing course](#) takes place on **23rd November** This course is not just for current chairs, but also those aspiring to become chair.

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.

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.

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 20th October 2023.

With very best wishes from

The Oxfordshire Governor Services Team – Tim and Helen