



Welcome to our governance news update



Tim Brock
Lead Officer for
Governance



Helen Tate
Governor Support
Officer



Ruth Pangu
Clerk to Governors
Team Lead

Contact us

For **governance** queries
email: governorservices@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Phone: 0330 0249 046
For **clerking** queries
email: clerking.service@oxfordshire.gov.uk

DfE and national updates

Schools Causing Concern guidance

Statutory guidance on local authorities' and regional directors' responsibilities relating to schools and PRUs causing concern.

'Schools causing concern guidance' has been updated to give greater clarity and accuracy. The policy has not changed.



[Schools causing concern](#)

Using Technology in Education

Added 'Generative AI in education: educator and expert views' to the 'Evidence and research' section.

[Find out more](#)

Meeting digital and technology standards in schools and colleges

How schools and colleges can meet IT service and digital equipment standards.

Digital accessibility standards – New section
[Meeting digital and technology standards in schools and colleges - Guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

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Oxfordshire updates

Schools Financial Values Standard (SFVS) deadline due

SFVS is a mandatory return for all schools maintained by the local authority and all Oxfordshire maintained schools are required to complete their SFVS by the specified submission date. Although it does not require any external assessment a copy of each completed SFVS signed by the Chair of Governors must be sent to the local authority.

The deadline for your school's 2023-24 submission will be **9 February 2024**. All returns must be submitted electronically to accounts@oxfordshire.gov.uk.



Annual report - Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board

Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board (OSCB) is a partnership that works together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in Oxfordshire. As defined in The Children and Social Work Act 2017 and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023, OSCB consists of three statutory safeguarding partners, Oxfordshire County Council (OCC), Thames Valley Police and Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board.

The safeguarding Annual report 2022 – 2023 summarises and provides update on the the work undertaken. The report provides assurance that the actions across the partnership and our statutory duties to ensure that we are learning from serious incidents and provide strategic leadership for



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safeguarding. <https://www.oscb.org.uk/documents/oscb-annual-report-2022-23/>

[Annual Report 22-23 \(Pdf, 2MB\)](#)

Energy efficiency interest-free loan available for Oxfordshire Schools

After a successful first round of funding last year, OCC is relaunching its interest-free Schools Energy Efficiency Loan scheme with the remaining funding.

From the 15th January 2024, maintained schools can apply for up to £70,000 to finance the installation of LED lighting and/or solar PV, based on your specific needs and priorities.

This loan provides a chance for your school to reduce overall energy usage. Improving the energy efficiency of your school buildings not only demonstrates leadership in your community on taking action on climate change, but will help reduce energy use and could help cut down on operational costs.

[Find out more](#)

Action on Carbon & Energy in Schools (ACES), an energy efficiency support service for schools funded by OCC. ACES will be available to provide advice and support to schools in applying for the loan.

The loan scheme is now open for applications and applications will be reviewed in the order they are received. The deadline for applications is **Thursday 28th March 2024** or sooner if oversubscribed.

To receive the application pack for the loan scheme, please email ACES on: info@aces-schools.org.

Contact us

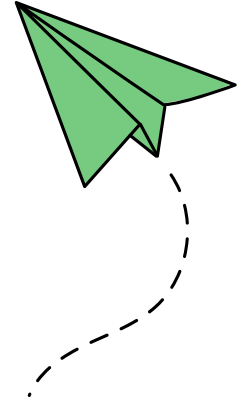
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Data Confirmation for maintained schools 2023 - overdue

A reminder to all maintained boards to complete the data confirmation survey. This survey can be completed by the chair, vice chair or governance professional (clerk)

[Maintained Schools Data Confirmation 2023](#)

We requested this information by the end of the autumn term. **We will be contacting boards which have not responded shortly.**

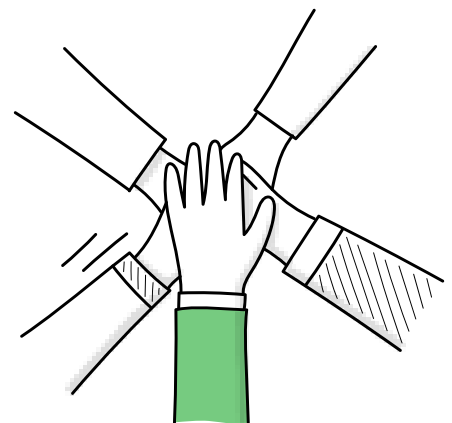


Governor Services Training

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

As part of the support for governors, trustees and directors across Oxfordshire, Matt Blyton (an external 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
- Raise governors' awareness of an evidence-based toolkit to support them and school leaders to evaluate their provision (Thriving Lives Toolkit)



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- Give updates on the current projects and plans for development work in 2023/24
- Facilitate a forum for sharing good practice and exploring solutions to challenges

There will be three network meetings in total across the academic year and these sessions are recommended for all boards with at least one Service pupil on roll.

Next session: Tues 6th Feb 2024 19:00-20:30

[Book here](#)

Spring Term training programme

The Spring term training programme is now in full swing. The full programme is available to view [here](#).

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

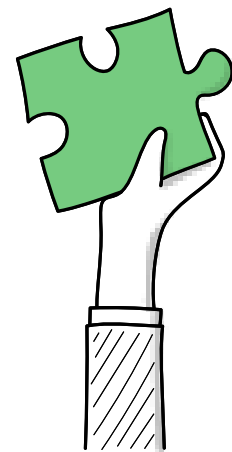
You must provide a **name** and **email address** so we can add your booking to our system and send you the joining link.

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.



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...for everything you do for children in Oxfordshire

Our next news update will be published on Friday 9th February 2024.

With very best wishes from

The Oxfordshire Governor Services Team - Tim, Helen and Ruth

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