



Welcome to our governance news update

Happy New Year to you all! We hope you've had a restful break and are ready for the Spring term.

The Oxfordshire Military Partnership Conference - Thriving Lives for Service Children: The Part that Schools Play is taking place next Friday 19th January, with bookings closing on **Monday**. Agenda and booking details can be found below.

Contact us

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



Tim Brock
Lead Officer for
Governance



Helen Tate
Governor Support
Officer



Ruth Pangu
Clerk to Governors
Team Lead

DfE and national updates

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework

The standards that school and childcare providers must meet for the learning, development and care of children from birth to 5. The new framework came into effect on 9th January.

The new framework and details of the changes can be found [here](#)



Working Together to Safeguard Children – updated guidance

The statutory guidance was update in December. The new guidance and a summary of the changes can be found here:

[Working Together to Safeguard Children](#)

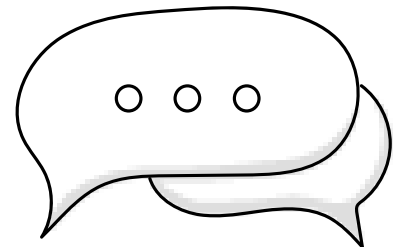
DfE consultations

Gender Questioning Children – draft non-statutory guidance consultation

[Gender questioning children: draft schools and colleges guidance](#)

Online consultation is open until March 2024

[Guidance for Schools and Colleges: Gender Questioning Children - Department for Education - Citizen Space](#)



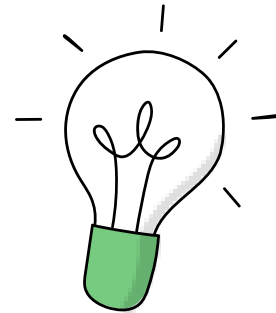
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Minimum service levels for schools - Consultation

The DfE is seeking views on the most appropriate approach for delivering minimum service levels in education services and evidence on the impact of strike action.

[Minimum service levels \(MSLs\) in education](#)



Oxfordshire updates

Free Event - Thriving Lives for Service Pupils Conference Friday 19 January 2024

Schools and trusts have a statutory duty to pay due regard to the needs, challenges and barriers faced by children of serving and ex-Armed Forces personnel.

The Service pupil premium (SPP) was introduced by the Department for Education (DfE) to acknowledge the unique challenges faced by Service children.

Join Oxfordshire County Council for a thought provoking and inspiring day where we will explore the role of schools in supporting our service children to succeed and achieve.

Throughout the day, you'll have opportunity to collaborate with colleagues during a range of workshops, engage in discussions and hear from our engaging keynote speakers.

For further details, please contact
GovernorServices@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

Friday
19 January 2024
9:00-16:00
[REGISTER](#)

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If you would like to reserve a place, please book via the link on GovernorHub [Thriving Lives for Service Pupils Conference](#) or email GovernorServices@oxfordshire.gov.uk

NOTE - Bookings will close at 5pm on Monday 15th January 2024

National focus on school attendance

Message from Kim James (Head of Service School Improvement) and Jo Goodey (County Attendance Lead) sent to schools at the start of term

Dear colleagues,

Welcome back to the start of the Spring Term 2024. Happy New Year.

Today starts a national drive on school attendance. Please find below the materials that have been sent to all schools today. OCC will be running a campaign across all social media this term regarding attendance.

May I take this opportunity to 'Thank you' for your focused work on attendance last Term. If you require any advice, please do contact the County **Attendance Team** [Attendance](mailto:Attendance@Oxfordshire.gov.uk) (Attendance@Oxfordshire.gov.uk) or peruse the details on the following pages: [County Attendance Team | Oxfordshire Schools](#).

Message from the DfE: Priority action for schools: Support the national drive to improve school attendance

This article will be of interest to senior leaders and attendance leads



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From the start of the spring term, we are running a national campaign to ensure that everyone is clear that 'moments matter, attendance counts'.

You can access a [new toolkit](#) with more details and valuable resources which can be used to help support a warm welcome to school for children, young people and families. This is in addition to existing resources including [guidance on mild illness](#), [a letter from the Chief Medical Officer](#), [support for children who are anxious about school](#), and a [toolkit to help schools communicate with families on attendance](#).

We have also committed to introducing legislation in the coming months that will mean all schools will be required to share their daily pupil attendance data. Join the 88% of schools that are already [sharing daily attendance data](#) and access your attendance data using the Monitor Your School Attendance tool, via the ['View your education data'](#) service and see up-to-date pupil-level attendance and compare your performance against other schools.

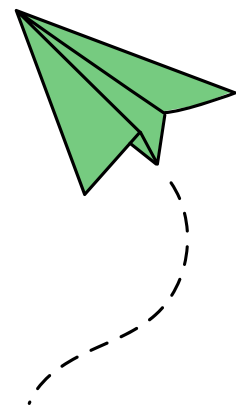
Kind Regards

Kim James MBE

Head of Service : Learning & School Improvement. Children, Education & Families (CEF)

Data Confirmation for maintained schools 2023 - overdue

You will remember that we ask you to keep certain information up to date and accurate on GovernorHub. There are also statutory requirements to include this information on certain public websites.



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This year we have decided to gather the information as a survey. It should not take long to complete. The link has been emailed to maintained school chairs of governors. Here is the link again, should you need it:

[Maintained Schools Data Confirmation 2023](#)

Thank you to all the boards who have already completed the survey this year. We are working our way through the requests for further information.

We requested this information by the end of the autumn term. **We will be chasing those boards who have not responded shortly.**

Governor Services Training

FREE training event

The Welcoming and Enabling Early Years Environment

Thursday 25 January 2024

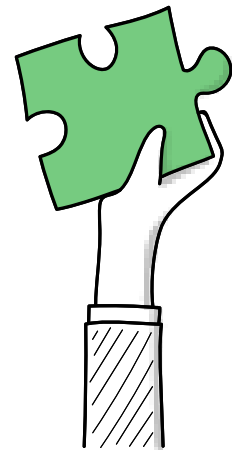
7:00-8:00pm via Teams

Do you know your early years? Is it effective? Does it create a warm, happy and inclusive welcome for all children while improving their outcomes?

What do governors need to look for, and monitor, when considering the effectiveness of the early years?

This session will cover:

- What to look for in the environment to indicate good early years provision



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- The role of the early years as the shop window or front door to your school
- Improving attendance through a welcoming, representative, and inclusive early years environment
- How governors can know all of this is in place.

Please book your **FREE** place via [GovernorHub](#)

or by emailing Governor Services on
GovernorServices@Oxfordshire.gov.uk

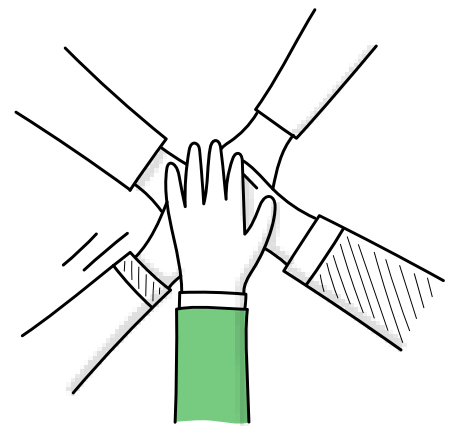
Places are **FREE** for all Oxfordshire governors and trustees.

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 26th January 2024.

With very best wishes from

The Oxfordshire Governor Services Team - Tim, Helen and Ruth

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