



## Welcome to our governance news update

Hello and welcome to our latest governance newsletter.

Lots of national updates to let you know about this time, and a few important Oxfordshire ones, including a budget letter from Ian Dyson, the Director of Finance Services and our summer term training programme.



**Tim Brock**  
Lead Officer for  
Governance



**Helen Tate**  
Governor Support  
Officer



**Ruth Pangu**  
Clerk to Governors  
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Phone: 0330 0249 046  
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email: [clerking.service@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:clerking.service@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

### DfE and national updates

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## Sustainability leadership and climate action plans in education

The Department for Education's (DfE) [sustainability and climate change strategy for education](#) states: "By 2025, all education settings will have nominated a sustainability lead and put in place a climate action plan". This includes early years settings, schools, multi-academy trusts, colleges, and universities.

The attached document details the expectations for schools, including governing boards.

[Sustainability leadership and climate action plans in education](#)



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## Flexible working in Schools

Updated non-statutory guidance for employers and staff who want to make arrangements for flexible working.

'Flexible working in schools' guidance will be updated in April 2024 to align with the new flexible working law when it comes into force.

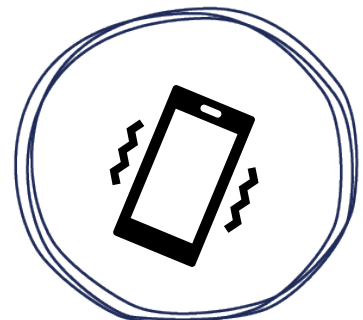
[Flexible working in schools - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

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## Mobile phones in schools

New guidance on how schools can prohibit the use of mobile phones throughout the school day.

[Mobile phones in schools \(gov.uk\)](#)



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## Behaviour in Schools

The section of this document on mobile phones has been updated to reflect the new guidance.

[Behaviour in schools - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

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## New regulations for schools in next stage of attendance drive

Key guidance setting out how schools and local authorities must take a 'support-first' approach to help pupils and their families to tackle barriers to attendance will be made statutory from August 2024. New statutory guidance published with applies from 19 August 2024

[New regulations for schools in next stage of attendance drive - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

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



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## Pupil Premium Update

'Pupil premium: overview' has been updated with information for the 2023 to 2024 academic year, including outlining the funding criteria and adding a link to the allocations and conditions of grant for the 2024 to 2025 financial year. 'Using pupil premium: guidance for school leaders' has been updated to add information to the 'purpose of pupil premium' section and improve overall readability.

[Pupil premium - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

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## Working together to safeguard children

Statutory guidance on multi-agency working to help, protect and promote the welfare of children has been updated in a number of areas, including a link to the latest version of 'Good practice guidance on working with parents with a learning disability'.

[Working together to safeguard children \(gov.uk\)](http://gov.uk)

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### Oxfordshire updates

## Schools budget information

**Sent on behalf of Ian Dyson, Director of Finance Services**

Dear Headteacher,

You will be expecting your school funding allocations and information to be published shortly and we wanted to provide you with a brief update on progress.

### Maintained Mainstream School Budgets

The funding formula for mainstream school budgets has been completed and approved by the ESFA. Academies will receive their funding notifications directly from the ESFA. For maintained schools, the funding allocations spreadsheet will be uploaded to the Schools page (see below) by 1 March in the same format as previous years. Further supporting information on the funding and any changes will be published as completed and will be released in the next week.

### Special Schools and SEND Funding

Unfortunately there will be a delay in releasing this information whilst we seek clarification on a number of technical queries and as we continue to work on confirming the top up funding for 2024/25. Completing this work is a priority and we aim for this to be completed before the Easter Holidays.

All published budget information will be published to this page as completed: [Budget and financial planning | Oxfordshire Schools](#)

We will endeavour to keep you up to date on any further development as the timescales become clearer. This email has



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been copied to Chairs of Governors and CEOs of MATs for information.

Apologies for this delay.

Regards,

Ian Dyson

Director of Finance Services

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## Schools Resources Exchange

School Resources Exchange is a nationwide schools' circular marketplace. Schools across the country are sharing their surplus items with each other. By doing so they are:

- generating extra income for their schools
- reducing their general waste (and waste management costs) through sustainable practices of passing on surplus items to where they are needed most.

***The service is completely free for schools to use.***

Schools Resources Exchange wants to build strong regional and county networks so that items can be easily shared between local schools. They're working with Oxfordshire County Council (OOC) to help make this happen.

Schools are using the service in three main ways:

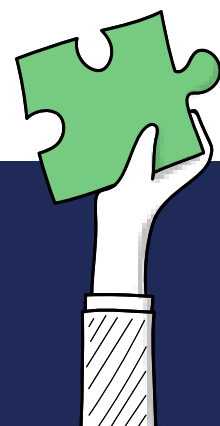
### 1. Selling/buying items

If your school has items they longer use/need - e.g. textbooks, sports equipment, class furniture - then you can list these items on the site for sale.

### 2. Swapping items

You could offer your surplus items as a swap. This way two schools get what they need without any budget having to be spent.

### 3. Requesting items



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You can request items your school needs.

A few hundred schools are already using the service and there are over 120 items listed on the site. The items range from textbooks to catering equipment to D&T equipment. We even have a kiln and a school mini-bus!

They're also running a monthly giveaway to schools who are registered with the service. Every month they'll be giving a school £200.

To get your school involved, you can sign-up [here](#).

[www.school-resources-exchange.co.uk](http://www.school-resources-exchange.co.uk)

## Governor Services Training

### Summer term training programme now available

The Governor Services training programme for the summer term is now available and open for booking on GovernorHub. You will note that we have included clerking sessions within the main programme

[Find out more](#)

#### How to book

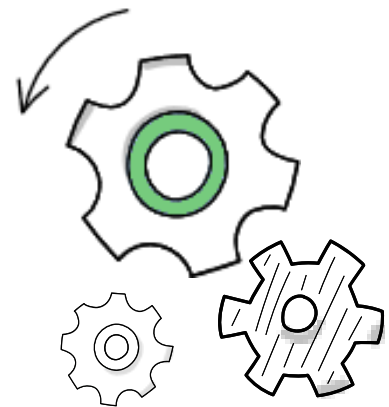
Training can be booked directly through [GovernorHub](#) for all maintained schools in Oxfordshire. Log into your account and click on the 'Oxfordshire Governor Services Training' tab.

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](mailto:governortraining@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

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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.



*...for everything you do for children in Oxfordshire*

Our next news update will be published on Friday 15th March 2024.

With very best wishes from

**The Oxfordshire Governor Services Team - Tim, Helen and Ruth**

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