



Welcome to our governance news update

Hello and welcome back for the Summer term.

Quite a few updates for you this week and some staffing changes at OCC to make you aware of.



Tim Brock
Lead Officer for
Governance



Helen Tate
Governor Support
Officer



Ruth Pangu
Clerk to Governors
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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

Flexible working in schools

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

Change made:

Flexible working in schools guidance updated to reflect legislative changes effective from 6 April 2024.

[Flexible working in schools - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flexible-working-in-schools)



Data Protection in Schools

The policies and processes schools and multi-academy trusts need to protect personal data and respond effectively to a personal data breach.

Change made: Handling other information rights requests – Section updated. Information on subject access requests (SARs) has been expanded and included in a new section of this guidance.

[Data protection in schools - Guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/data-protection-in-schools)



New PE guidance for Schools

Ahead of a huge summer of sport in 2024, new guidance on delivering two hours of PE a week, and equal access to sport and PE has been published.

[New PE guidance for schools strengthens equal access to sport PE and sports in schools - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-pe-guidance-for-schools-strengthens-equal-access-to-sport)



Ofsted – updated complaints and pausing policies

Ofsted has updated its policies for making complaints about inspections, and pausing inspections under exceptional circumstances.

[Fairness and transparency central to Ofsted's updated complaints and pausing policies - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/fairness-and-transparency-central-to-ofsted-s-updated-complaints-and-pausing-policies)



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NGA Annual Governance Survey 2024 Now Open Your Views Matter!

The NGA's 14th annual survey of governors and trustees in state schools across England is now open. This is a unique opportunity to have your say on the current state of school and trust governance and shape the future of governance at a national level.



This survey is the only regular, comprehensive source of information on the views, demographics, and experiences of one of England's largest volunteer forces. The survey is hosted by Edurio, England's leading stakeholder feedback platform for schools and multi-academy trusts.

Note – this survey is open to all governors and trustees - You do not have to be a member of the NGA to take part.

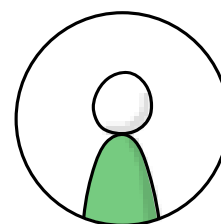
Oxfordshire updates

OCC Staffing Changes

New Interim Head of School Improvement and Learning

Zaheer Ahmed, previously Head of the Virtual School, has been appointed as the interim Head of School Improvement and Learning. Zaheer brings with him a wealth of experience as a former headteacher, as well as his work with vulnerable children and young people in the Virtual School.

Zaheer started on 16 April 2024 and will cover until a permanent appointment is made.

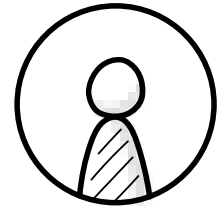


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New Acting Head of the Virtual School

Further to the announcement of Zaheer's appointment to the post of Interim Head of School Improvement and Learning, Clare Pike, previously Deputy Head of the Virtual School, has taken up the role of Acting Head of the Virtual School. Please refer to Clare as your lead contact for all matters relating to the work of the Virtual School.



Buyback of traded services to schools (including Governor Services) open now

The school's buyback of traded services for 2024/25 is now open. Your board can sign up again for a year of Governor Services training, express an interest in the Clerking Service and subscribe to GovernorHub, the NGA and OGA.

We will be covering the cost of providing GovernorHub to maintained schools as in previous years.

We are pleased to offer membership of the National Governance Association (NGA) at a reduced rate to schools in Oxfordshire for the next academic year.

The Oxfordshire Governor Services advice line and resources on the Schools website remain free to access.

Please ensure that your board discusses the available options and informs the school business manager once the decisions have been reached.



Sports Premium Grant

The PE and Sport premium funding plays a key role in raising the profile of physical activity in schools. In Oxfordshire, we have seen schools use the budget in many ways to embed the essential opportunities that all children need to be physically active every day. This guidance document provides an overview of the funding, how it should be spent and the reporting requirements of the school. Should you need any further help or support on how to spend the budget or reporting, please [contact Natalie.robbs@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Natalie.robbs@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

[PE and sport premium for primary schools - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pe-and-sport-premium-for-primary-schools)

Natalie Robb, Strategic School Food and Physical Activity Advisor



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School Food Standards

Nationally, only 25% of state schools in England are meeting school food nutritional requirements. We also know that in Oxfordshire, on average, 15% of reception age children are overweight and this doubles to nearly 30% by the time children are in Year 6 (in areas of higher deprivation this figure is around 40% in Year 6). 48% of children in Oxfordshire are not doing enough physical activity to protect their health and well-being.

Schools play a vital role in the education about healthy eating but also in their provision of food across the school day. There are some excellent resources around the School Food Standards to support the work in your school.

If you would like to discuss the provision in your school around healthy eating and physical activity, please contact natalie.robb@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Natalie Robb, Strategic School Food and Physical Activity Advisor

Governor Services Training

Summer term training programme now available

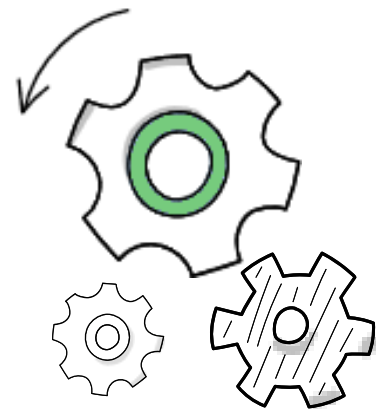
The Governor Services training programme for the summer term is now available and open for booking on GovernorHub. You will note that we have included clerking sessions within the main programme.

[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.



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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.



...for everything you do for children in Oxfordshire

Our next news update will be published on Friday 3rd May 2024.

With very best wishes from

The Oxfordshire Governor Services Team - Tim, Helen and Ruth

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