



Welcome to our governance news update

Hello and welcome to this week's newsletter.

If you attended our Governors' Briefing on Tuesday this week, you will have heard updates from Jo Lloyd, Local Authority Designated Officer, and Michael Esvelt from Action on Carbon and Energy in Schools (ACES). Both our speakers were very informative and so we have included some of what was discussed below in case you missed it.

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

Attendance Guidance

A reminder that a new version of “Working together to improve attendance”, the DfE statutory guidance, has been published and will come into effect from 19th August.

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



Cyber Security

Meeting digital and technology standards in schools and colleges was updated in May. These standards are to help schools build cyber resilience through cyber governance, processes and strategy.

[Meeting digital and technology standards in schools and colleges
- Cyber security standards for schools and colleges - Guidance -
GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/meeting-digital-and-technology-standards-in-schools-and-colleges)



The Digital leadership and governance standard sets out that good digital technology governance includes;

- Identifying roles and responsibilities
- Establishing critical processes to manage digital technology and
- Ensuring that up-to-date information is available to support decision making

A digital lead is accountable for this standard and will coordinate and manage the digital technology strategy. The governing body will support and challenge any plans and decisions made on the strategy. At least one governor should undertake cyber security

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training. The National Cyber Security Centre offers two free training packages for school staff as well as a Toolkit for Boards and questions that governors should ask.

For the training; [Cyber security for schools - NCSC.GOV.UK](https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/cyber-security-for-schools)

For the Toolkit; [Cyber Security Toolkit for Boards - NCSC.GOV.UK](https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/cyber-security-toolkit-for-boards)

For the Questions; [School cyber security questions for governors - NCSC.GOV.UK](https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/school-cyber-security-questions-for-governors)

Sustainability Leadership and Climate Action Plans

This DfE strategy states that by 2025, all education settings will have nominated a sustainability lead and put in place a climate action plan. This includes expectations for governing boards, together with school leaders;

- To provide the authority and support to drive and embed culture change
- To ensure climate change and sustainability feature on the agenda at key meetings
- To be responsible for succession planning, so that commitment to sustainability endures in the setting

[National Education Nature Park and Climate Action Awards | Natural History Museum \(nhm.ac.uk\)](https://www.nhm.ac.uk/nature-park-and-climate-action-awards)

Also, coming from June 2024 is a new Sustainability Support for Education site being developed by the DfE to help with ideas and resources for schools.

[Sustainability Support for Education](https://www.gov.uk/sustainability-support-for-education)



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DfE Consultation – Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE)

The DfE has opened a consultation on its updated draft Relationships, Sex and Health Education Guidance. This is partly in response to an independent review of gender identity services for children (The Cass Review) which was published in April. Its aim is to protect children from inappropriate teaching on sensitive topics and includes proposed age limits on content and a new section on sexual harassment and violence.

[Review of the RSHE statutory guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

This consultation opened on 16th May and will close on 11th July

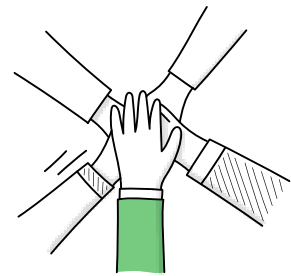


Oxfordshire updates

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

Jo Lloyd has outlined the following updates;

- A new definition of Safeguarding (Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023)
- KCSIE 2024 Checklist to ensure all staff read and understand part 1 of the guidance, particularly the technical changes, remind school leaders and governors to read the full guidance and make information accessible to those who speak English as an additional language or who prefer an audio version.
- Ensure schools have appropriate filtering and monitoring systems in place and regularly review their effectiveness.
- Schools should consider carrying out an annual review of their approach to online safety; [Online safety in schools and colleges: Questions from the Governing Board \(2022\) \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)



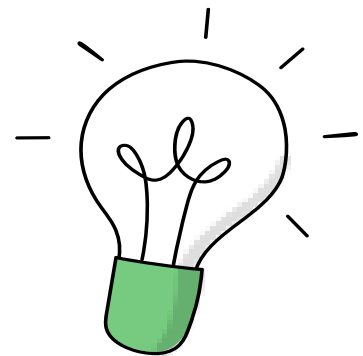
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- An update to the Section 175/157 safeguarding self-assessment dates that these will open on 16th July and close on 29th November (requiring Governor sign off) and Section 1 to be completed by 13th September.

Action on Carbon and Energy in Schools

ACES provides energy and carbon reduction support to help maintained schools in Oxfordshire progress energy saving measures which can improve buildings and save money. They provide energy assessments to identify energy reduction measures which includes estimated costs and savings and also manage OCC's zero interest loan scheme for LED lighting and solar PV panels. For further details the ACES Helpdesk can be contacted through their website at www.ace-schools.org

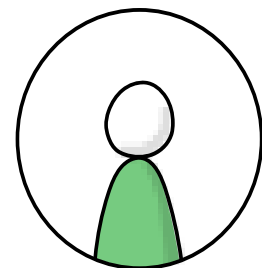


Thank you to Michael Esvelt for his presentation at the Governors' Briefing on Tuesday this week.

Conflicts of Interest

All governors are responsible for declaring and avoiding conflicts of interest. These arise when the personal or pecuniary interests of a governor/trustee in a matter being considered by the governing board may affect, or be perceived to affect, the ability of that governor/trustee to take decisions on the matter that are impartial and in the best interests of the school/trust. Such conflicts of interest should always be acknowledged and declared, and the governor should withdraw from the meeting for that item of business.

This issue is governed by regulation 16 and schedule 1 of; [The School Governance \(Roles, Procedures and Allowances\) \(England\) Regulations 2013 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

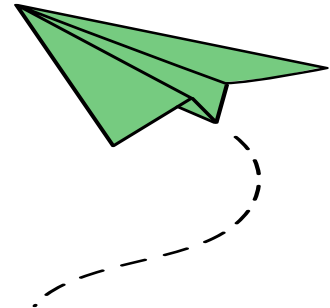


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Governors' school email addresses

Although there is no specific requirement in UK GDPR for Governors to use school email addresses instead of personal email accounts, it is good practice that they do so to prevent a breach of personal data.



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

Buyback of traded services for 2024/25 will close on **30th June**.

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 offering membership of the National Governance Association (NGA) at a reduced rate to schools in Oxfordshire.

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

Please ensure that your board informs the school business manager of your preferred options in order that they may enter this into the Buyback system by **30th June**.

OCC Clerking
Service

OCC Governor
Services Training



Clerks to Governors

The Clerking Service is continuing the recruitment drive to onboard new clerks to meet demand from school governing boards across Oxfordshire. Please ask your schools to support this drive by promoting the vacancy on the Oxfordshire County Council jobs page at [Clerk to Governing Board - OCC614079](#)



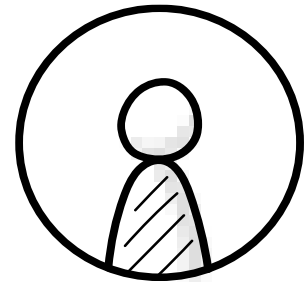
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[Job Details | Shared Services Partnership \(newjob.org.uk\)](#) to staff and parents as it is a flexible position that can easily fit around other commitments. Alternatively, for an informal chat, the Clerk to Governors Team Lead can be contacted at Ruth.Pangu@Oxfordshire.gov.uk Thank you.

Oxfordshire Governors' Association – Supporting the wellbeing of your headteacher

All Governors and Trustees are invited to attend an OGA event on Monday 1st July from 7pm (with refreshments from 6.30pm) at Church House, Kidlington, OX5 1GF for a presentation on Governors' responsibilities and suggested strategies. To book a place, please email Judith.bennetts@outlook.com



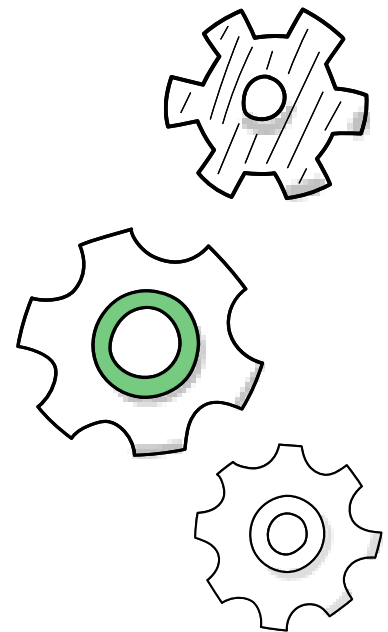
Governor Services Training

Summer term training programme

Governor Services training information is available here;

[Find out more](#)

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 the Governor Services training package, there will be no additional charge. 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 that 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 Governor Services training package **before booking**. Governors at schools that subscribe can register for as much training as you like at no additional cost. For governors at schools that do not currently subscribe, there is a charge to attend and schools will be invoiced after the event. Please see the [Pay as You Go rates](#)

Any free briefings or events are clearly indicated.



...for everything you do for children in Oxfordshire

With very best wishes from

The Oxfordshire Governor Services Team - Tim, Helen and Ruth

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