



Welcome to our governance news update

Hello and welcome to part two of our newsletter.

The weather has become decidedly autumnal as we move into this term, although late summer sun today is very welcome.

As boards are starting to have their first meetings of the year, we have quite a number of updates in guidance to bring you from the last few weeks, along with some Oxfordshire updates for your autumn term work.

If you have any feedback about the newsletter, including suggestions for content, please do get in touch.



Tim Brock
Lead Officer for
Governance



Helen Tate
Governor Support
Officer



Ruth Pangu
Clerk to Governors
Team Lead

Contact us

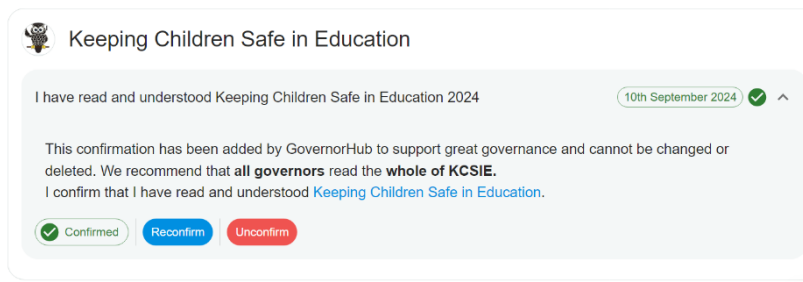
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email: governorservices@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Phone: 0330 0249 046
For **clerking** queries
email: clerking.service@oxfordshire.gov.uk

National Updates

Keeping Children Safe in Education

The September 2024 version of the keeping children safe in education guidance is now in force, replacing previous versions. [Keeping children safe in education September 2024 \(gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/125421/Keeping_Children_Safe_in_Education_September_2024.pdf)

All governors **must** read all of the guidance. Once you have read it, please confirm under the Compliance tab on your GovernorHub profile to help your board keep track of it.



Single headline Ofsted grades scrapped

Single headline Ofsted grades for schools have been scrapped with immediate effect.

For inspections this academic year, parents will see four grades across the existing sub-categories: quality of education, behaviour and attitudes, personal development and leadership & management.

Where necessary, in cases of the most serious concern, government will continue to intervene, including by issuing an academy order, which may in some cases mean transferring to new management. Ofsted will continue to identify these schools – which would have been graded as inadequate.



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The government also currently intervenes where a school receives two or more consecutive judgements of 'requires improvement' under the '2RI' policy. With the exception of schools already due to convert to academies this term, this policy will change. The government will now put in place support for these schools from a high performing school, helping to drive up standards quickly. [Find out more](#)

Schools urged to capitalise on Paralympic success

The government is reminding schools to ensure all children have equal access to PE and school sport with support from the Inclusion 2024 programme.

[Schools urged to capitalise on Paralympic success](#)



Period Products in schools and colleges

The guidance for schools and post-16 education organisations in England on providing free period products for pupils and students has been updated for the academic year 2024 to 2025.

[Period products in schools and colleges](#)

School Capital Funding

An interesting overview of school capital funding - who it's for, current and past allocations, how it's calculated and spending guidance. A section has been added: 'Eligibility for SCA for the 2025 to 2026 financial year'.

[School capital funding - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

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Joining the risk protection arrangement (RPA) for schools, an alternative to commercial insurance

Some information on how public sector schools can join the risk protection arrangement (RPA), an alternative to commercial insurance, which may save time and money.

Updated figures for academies' annual costs and the dates of the coverage period for the 2024 to 2025 academic year have been added.

[Join the risk protection arrangement \(RPA\) for 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.

Guidance has been updated on privacy notices.

[Data protection in schools - Guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Attendance

Some changes have been made to the statutory guidance on attendance. Details of those changes can be found on P7 of the guidance document.

[Working together to improve school attendance \(gov.uk\)](#)

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Oxfordshire updates

Filling Governor Vacancies

We have been working closely on a campaign with [Governors for Schools - Effective Governors, Excellent Schools](#) to boost the number of people applying to become governors. This is starting to show some success with a large increase in volunteers wishing to become governors registering with Governors for Schools in Oxfordshire.

Now we need your help!

If you have a governor vacancy, please register it with Governors for Schools and they will help you to fill that vacancy. This service is free of charge.

[Find out more](#)

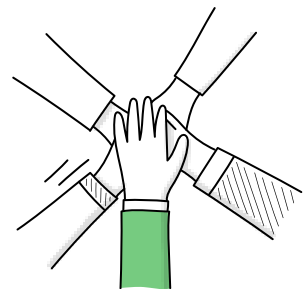
We all know that having a full board helps with sharing the workload, and we want to support you in filling any vacancies you may have.

Please do get in touch if you have any queries.



Oxfordshire Healthy & Active Young People Conference

Hear from key partners about the current Health & Wellbeing, Physical Education, School Sport and Physical Activity landscape, with keynotes and workshops designed to inform, support and provide guidance



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Sessions for Headteachers & Governors:

~ Driving Whole School Improvement through Well Schools & Positive Experiences ~

~ Eating Well & Achieving More ~

Date and Time: 07 Oct 2024 09:00 - 16:30

Venue: Blessed George Napier Catholic School, Addison Road, Banbury, OX16 9DG

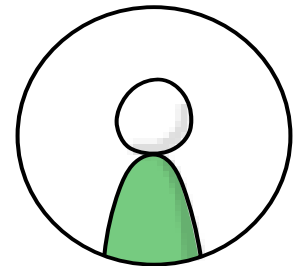
Price per booking: £140

Click [here](#) to secure your place

Headteacher Appraisals 2024-25

This is one of the things we get asked about a lot at this time of year, and we can support you with the process.

Maintained school boards appraise their headteacher in the Autumn term. For more information, including the external adviser service available from the OCC School Improvement Team, please go to [Headteacher Appraisals 2024-25](#)



Training sessions on The Appraisal Process will be held on 26th September 2024 and 19th November 2024 as part of the Governor Services training programme. [Book here](#)

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.

For the guidance on teachers pay and appraisals, which was updated in July, please see the following links.

[Managing Teachers' and Leaders' Pay - July 2024 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

Page 6 details the main roles and responsibilities of the governing board.

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[Teacher Appraisal - guidance for schools \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

The key point from this updated guidance is that for the year 2024/25, the requirement for objectives and the appraisal process to lead to performance-related pay outcomes for teachers and leaders will be removed.

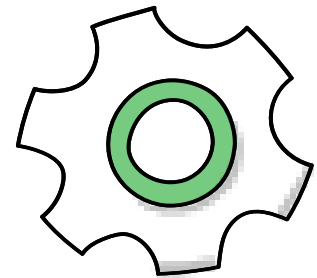
However, note that pay decisions for the 2023/24 academic year, which will be taken in September/October 2024, will continue to be based on the requirements for performance related progression as set out in the September 2023 School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document (STPCD)

Governor Services Training

Autumn term training programme

The Governor Services Training starts next week, on 19th September 2024. The full training programme for Autumn Term 2024 is now available to book on [GovernorHub](#).

More information on the training programme can be found [here](#).



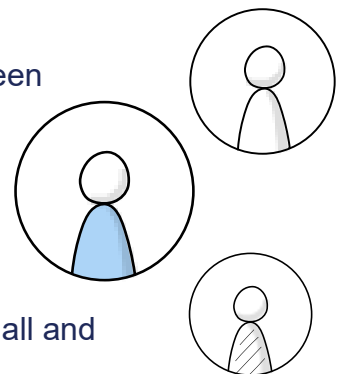
Clerks' Briefing for Governance Professionals

The autumn term briefing for governance professionals (clerks) has been scheduled for this coming **Thursday 19th September at 10am**.

The briefing is open to all governance professionals and is **FREE OF CHARGE**.

Booking is now open on [GovernorHub](#), or email the Governortraining@oxfordshire.gov.uk

As always, we look forward to having the chance to catch up with you all and to discuss current topics.



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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.

There's still time to sign up for the training package for this academic year. If your board would like to subscribe, get in touch and we can arrange it for you.



...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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