



Welcome to our governance news update

Hello

As we settle into the new school year and first meetings of the boards are happening, do get in touch if you have any queries. It's a busy time of year.

We have quite a few updates this time, including details of some briefings and training sessions which are free for anyone to attend, even if you don't subscribe to our training programme.

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

Zaheer Ahmed
Head of Learning and
School Improvement



Helen Tate
Governor Support
Officer



Ruth Pangu
Clerk to Governors
Team Lead

Contact us

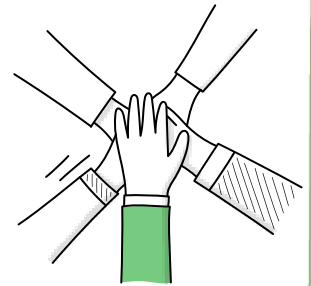
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National Updates

Pupil Premium

Pupil premium guidance has been updated with templates for this academic year.

[Pupil premium - gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk/pupil-premium)



Staffing and Employment advice for schools

The sections on time off and flexible working have been updated to reflect legislative changes that came into effect in April 2024.

[Staffing and employment: advice for schools - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/staffing-and-employment-advice-for-schools)



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

Please do note the governing board's responsibilities with regard to oversight, regardless of delegation:

“1.9 In fulfilling their staffing responsibilities the governing body of a maintained school is free to delegate all of its staffing functions as set out in the Regulations¹ to the headteacher, one or more governors, a committee established by the governing body, or one or more governors together with the headteacher; with the exception of a small number of specific tasks set out in the Regulations.

1.10 In delegating functions, the governing body must not lose sight of the fact that it continues to retain overall accountability for the decisions made by those to whom the function has been

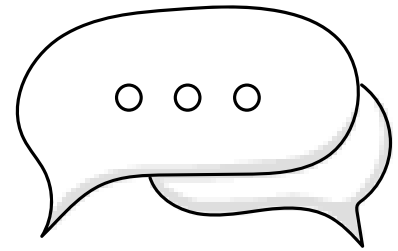
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delegated. As a result it is important that local procedures are reviewed regularly by the governing body; for example, satisfying themselves that the staffing functions are being addressed and the right people are fulfilling these roles on its behalf.

Admissions consultation

The window for consultations on Admissions arrangements is now open. If your school or trust wants to make any changes to the policy, you will need to undertake a 6-week consultation period **before 31st January**.



You must consult on your admission arrangements:

- Whenever you propose changes to your admissions arrangements (unless the changes are of the exceptions that don't require consultation)
- At least once every 7 years, even if you make no changes

[School admissions code - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

Is your school an admission authority?

Type of School	Who is the admission authority?	Who deals with complaints about arrangements?	Who is responsible for arranging/ providing for an appeal against refusal of a place at a school?
Academies	Academy Trust	Schools Adjudicator	Academy Trust
Foundation Schools	Governing body	Schools Adjudicator	Governing body
Voluntary aided schools	Governing body	Schools Adjudicator	Governing body
Community Schools	Local Authority	Schools Adjudicator	Local Authority
Voluntary controlled schools	Local Authority	Schools Adjudicator	Local Authority

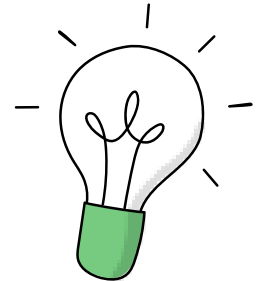
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'National conversation' on curriculum begins

Professor Becky Francis has launched a call for evidence seeking views on the current curriculum and assessment system to help shape the future of education.

[Find out more](#)



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.

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GovernorHub App

We have been advised by GovernorHub that the GovernorHub app is no longer available. It has been replaced by a new, enhanced web-app designed to offer a more interactive and user-friendly experience.

Please download the web-app using the instructions below so you can keep on top of your governance role on a phone or a tablet.

[How to add GovernorHub to your smartphone or tablet](#)

Note - If you're currently using a desktop computer, then you won't be impacted by this latest update. This is only for those users who were using the GovernorHub app on their smartphone or tablet.

If you're logging in via a browser such as Google Chrome or Edge, you should be able to access as normal

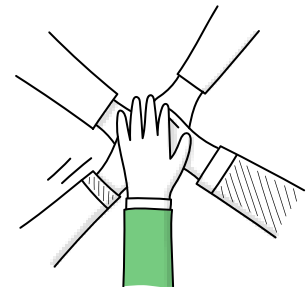


National Wraparound Programme

The new government is continuing to drive the Wraparound Childcare Programme and its ambition that every primary aged child will have access to before and after school (8am – 6pm) childcare provision on or near to their school.

'We expect all schools to have wraparound childcare on school site unless there is a reasonable justification not to, having considered all support available. Provision may be run by the school or a PVI provider.'

'You are expected to work with your local authority wraparound lead, and childcare providers in your area, to support parents to access quality wraparound childcare.' [Wraparound childcare guidance for schools](#)



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Grant funding is available to help with the startup and running costs of new or extended provision that meets the government criteria, for up to two years while demand is being built. This helps to remove financial risk. However, this funding has currently only been committed for provision starting in this financial year (up to April 25).

If you would like more information and/ or advice about setting up wraparound provision or applying for funding, please email the team at wraparoundchildcare@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Free Energy Assessments

Action on Carbon and Energy in Schools (ACES) is offering the last few remaining [free energy assessments](#) for county-maintained schools. If you have links to a school, please do share with them this fantastic opportunity to find out how they could be saving energy.



Action on
Carbon &
Energy in
Schools

An energy assessment will provide the school with a practical plan to reduce energy waste, including a range of simple, low-cost or no-cost measures such as managing hot water timers or adding insulation to boiler rooms.

Governor Services Training

Autumn term training programme

The Governor Services Training programme is now in full swing. The full training programme for Autumn Term 2024 is available to book on [GovernorHub](#).

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

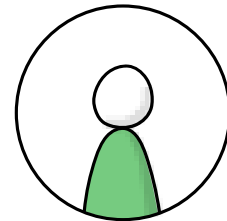
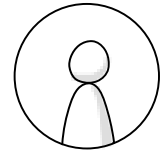
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Free briefings and training sessions

➤ Governor Services briefing – Thursday 10th October

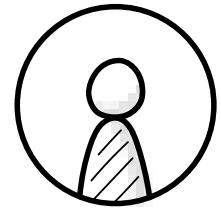
Oxfordshire County Council Governor Services will deliver a briefing for all governors. The hour long session is free to attend but please do register [here](#) so that you can be provided with a MS Teams link. Topics will be school governor specific and we aim to include an opportunity for feedback.



➤ Armed Forces Covenant Duty – the governing board's role

Free sessions on [26th November and 2nd December](#)

Join Matt Blyton, OCC School Improvement Consultant, to find out how Boards can fulfil their responsibilities to their service children and young people.



Does this apply to our school?

- There are 2710 children from military families attending schools in Oxfordshire
- More than half (187) of Oxfordshire's 318 schools have children from families serving in the military
- In 44 schools, children from military families make up at least 5% of the children on roll

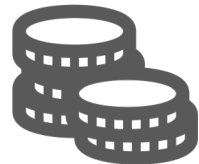
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➤ Free school improvement and financial planning sessions for school leaders and governors

Free sessions on [16th and 22nd October](#)

Putting good financial planning at the heart of the school improvement cycle.



This free session is designed to help maintained school leaders and governors understand the vital role of financial planning in the school improvement cycle. The School Improvement Team, together with colleagues from other OCC services, will lead this session looking at:

- The elements of good financial planning
 - Financial planning and the school improvement cycle
 - Best practice in Inclusion
 - Early Years funding streams
 - The governors' role in financial planning and monitoring
- There will be the opportunity for questions and discussions throughout the event.

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.

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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

Our next newsletter will be published on Friday 18th October 2024.

With very best wishes from

The Oxfordshire Governor Services Team – Zaheer, Helen and Ruth

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