



Welcome to our governance news update

National School Governors' Awareness Day is on Thursday 13th February. This is a day to celebrate the commitment and dedication of all governor volunteers and an opportunity to say “**Thank you**” for all the time, effort and expertise you give to support your schools and ultimately the children in the community.

Governorsforschools.org.uk will also be using this day to promote the need for more volunteers to help fill vacancies on boards and share the workload. So please look out for opportunities to celebrate and promote school governance.

Zaheer Ahmed
Head of Learning
and School
Improvement



Helen Tate
Governor Support
Officer



Ruth Pangu
Clerk to Governors
Team Lead

Contact us

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

National Updates

Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill 2024: policy summary (latest update)

The latest amendment to this bill concerns the teacher pay measure tabled on 28/01/2025 which is yet to be debated.

[Childrens wellbeing and schools bill policy summary - GOV.UK](#)



Education Secretary outlines plans to modernise the education sector through the power of technology.

This is a transcript of Bridget Phillipson's address to the delegation at the Bett show last week.

[Education Secretary gives keynote address - GOV.UK](#)



SEN and Disabilities Duties

This guidance for school governing boards on their role and responsibilities supporting pupils with special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities includes a useful checklist to question senior leaders and suggested data sets to consider.

[SEN and disabilities guidance for governing boards - GOV.UK](#)



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Waste and recycling

From 31st March 2025 all workplaces, including schools, have a legal duty to separate dry recyclable waste, food waste and black bin (residual) waste in accordance with the waste collector's arrangements.

[Simpler recycling: workplace recycling in England - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/simpler-recycling-workplace-recycling-in-england)

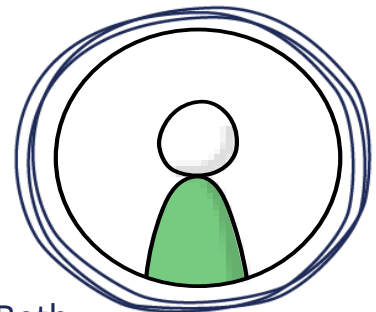


Oxfordshire updates

Schools Forum - vacancies for academy governors

School Forum is looking for:

- **One primary academy governor**
- **Two secondary academy governors**



to be representatives of academies on the Schools Forum. Both MAT Trustees and members of Local Governing Bodies are eligible. The role is suitable for people with experience of school budget management and an interest in the technical aspects of school finance.

The purpose of the Forum is to provide strategic direction for the funding of schools in the local authority and support services in relation to new school funding arrangements.

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The forum acts in a consultative role for:

- changes to the local funding formula (the local authority makes the final decision)
- proposed changes to the operation of the minimum funding guarantee
- changes to or new contracts affecting schools (school meals, for example)
- arrangements for pupils with special educational needs, in pupil referral units, and in early years provision

The forum decides:

- how much funding may be retained by the local authority within the dedicated schools grant (for example, providing an admissions service, or providing additional funding for growing schools)
- any proposed carry forward of deficits on central spend from one year to the next
- proposals to de-delegate funding from maintained primary and secondary schools (for example, for staff supply cover, insurance, behaviour support)
- changes to the scheme of financial management

The Oxfordshire Schools Forum meets five times a year.

Please contact Catharine Darnton, Vice Chair Schools Forum, by **Friday 7 February 2025**, if you are interested in being a representative on the Forum. If we have more applicants than there are vacancies, we will hold an online election.

Many thanks

cdarnton@gillotts.org.uk

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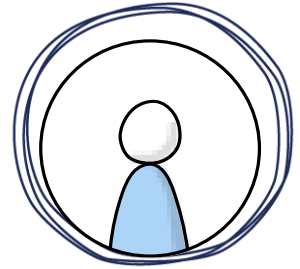
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The OCC Clerking Service - vacancies for Governance Professionals (formerly clerks)

We are growing our clerking team to meet demand from governing boards across the county for professional clerking support. Please help to promote these vacancies, which include training, in your school communities. For an informal chat, please contact Ruth Pangu, Clerk to Governors Team Lead at Ruth.Pangu@Oxfordshire.gov.uk



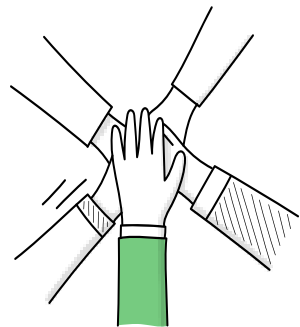
Or for full details and to submit an application, please go to;
[Clerk to Governing Board opportunities - OCC](#)

Governor Services Training

Governor Services training programmes

The Spring term training programmes for both governors and governance professionals are well underway and sessions are available to book on [GovernorHub](#) now.

Upcoming courses in February include Early Years Monitoring and Governance. Courses in March include Finance: budget construction and monitoring, The SEND lead governor, Inclusion, Understanding External Performance Data for Primary Schools, Preparing for Ofsted and Safer Recruitment.



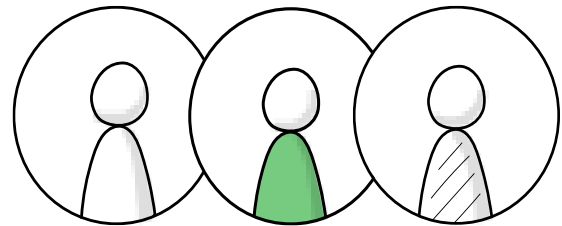
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On **26th March** there is a **FREE** training course for maintained schools covering Health and Safety. There will also be an Exclusions and Suspensions training on 2nd April.

For full details of all training courses currently scheduled, please click [here](#).

**FREE to
attend**



Free advice and guidance opportunities

Maintained School Headteacher Recruitment training

Tuesday 4th February 2025, 19:00 – 20:00

This **FREE** course will support governors in **maintained schools** with the multiple steps involved in the recruitment process by:

- Examining the key strategic issues involved
- Considering the roles and responsibilities of governors through this process
- Reviewing the legal requirements of the process

*This course is specifically designed for **maintained school governors** and is **free** to attend whether your school subscribes to our training programme or not.*

[Book here](#) or email the team at governortraining@oxfordshire.gov.uk

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FREE OCC Governor Services Governor Briefing

Thursday 6th February 2025, 18:00-19:00

This hour-long briefing, delivered by the Oxfordshire County Council Governor Services team and specialist advisors, is our half-termly update for all governors. Topics will be school governor specific and we aim to include an opportunity for feedback.

The briefing is **free to attend** but please register through GovernorHub [here](#), or email the team at governortraining@oxfordshire.gov.uk so that you can be provided with an MS Teams link.

**FREE to
attend**

Charging for training

Please check if 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.



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...for everything you do for children in Oxfordshire

Our next newsletter will be published on 14th February, just before the half term break.

With very best wishes from

The Oxfordshire Governor Services Team – Zaheer, Helen and Ruth

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