



Welcome to our governance news update

Hello

Yesterday was National School Governance Awareness Day. We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to all our dedicated school governors who volunteer their time to enhance the lives of children living in Oxfordshire. Your efforts are greatly valued and do not go unnoticed.

Please do get in touch if you have any questions. We love to hear from you.

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

School food standards

The 'School food standards practical guide' and 'School food: guidance for governors' documents have been updated to include information on the pilot online training course on school food for governors and trustees.



[School food standards: resources for schools - GOV.UK](#)

School improvement support

Support available to help all schools improve, including resources on teaching, development, curriculum, leadership, governance and finance has been updated to include current resources available to help schools improve.

[School improvement support](#)

Automated External Defibrillators in schools

Information on how schools can buy, install and maintain an automated external defibrillator.

[Automated external defibrillators \(AEDs\) in schools](#)

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SEND guidance

Guidance has been published for school governing boards on the board's role and responsibilities supporting pupils with special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities.

[SEN and disability duties: guidance for school governing boards - GOV.UK](#)

The link to this document has also added: [Equality Act 2010 and disabled pupils: A guide for governors and trustees](#)

School Accountability reform consultation

The government is seeking views on school accountability principles, school profiles and a stronger approach to school improvement through intervention for state schools across England.

[School accountability reform - GOV.UK](#)

Join the Great Big School Clean

Eco-Schools and Keep Britain Tidy are excited to announce that registration for the Great Big School Clean 2025 is now open!

Joining the Great Big School Clean protects wildlife and helps young people demonstrate just how much they love where they live. For further details, follow the link [Great Big School Clean | Keep Britain Tidy](#)



Use of reasonable force consultation

The DfE is seeking views on proposed changes to the use of reasonable force and other restrictive interventions guidance for England.

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[Use of reasonable force and other restrictive interventions guidance: proposed amendments - GOV.UK](#)

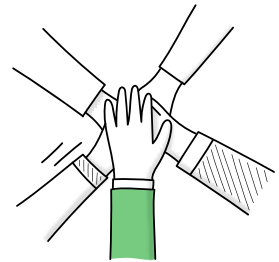
Governor Services Training

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.

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

Governor training sessions for the summer term and our next free governor briefing dates are now available to book on GovernorHub. Further details will be available after the half term break.



Oxfordshire's Supporting Service Children's Education Conference

14 Mar 2025 09:00 - 16:00

This is a children and young people's research network affiliated event run by Oxfordshire County Council's Learning and School Improvement service in partnership with Oxford Brookes University and its education department.

Funded by an Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust grant, the conference aims to share some important current research into Service children's lives with delegates, as well as providing them with national

FREE to attend

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updates and the opportunity to learn from examples of good practice from schools.

The programme of the day will include contributions from the following organisations, charities and research teams:

- Service Children's Progression (SCiP) Alliance
- Service Children in State Schools (SCISS)
- MOD's Armed Forces, Families & Safeguarding team
- Katie Salari, CEO Never Such Innocence charity
- Kelly Wales, Forces Employment Charity's (youth programme)
- Pri Chard, Dandelion Project, Moray Council (Scotland)
- Claudia Lucardi, Outreach Projects Manager, Oxford Brookes University
- Patrick Alexander, Professor of Education, Oxford Brookes University (school-to-school transition e-portfolio research)
- Dr Claire Lee, Research Fellow, Oxford Brookes University (Supporting All To Thrive, SEND research)
- Dr Anne Chappell, Head of Dept of Education, Brunel University London (research into adult 'Service children')
- Linda Littler, Children's Society (Young Carers within Armed Forces Families – NEXUS programme)

and more...

Please note bookings are free for this event, however bookings with non-attendance will result in a £50.00 charge

Up to 2 free places per Oxfordshire school (Schools can book a 3rd place for a governor via email

via OxfordshireEducationServices@oxfordshire.gov.uk

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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.



...for everything you do for children in Oxfordshire

We hope you have a relaxing break over the half term holiday.

Our next newsletter will be published on 7th March 2025

With very best wishes from

The Oxfordshire Governor Services Team – Zaheer, Helen and Ruth

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