



Welcome to our governance news update

Hello

With the arrival of March, it appears that spring has sprung. The sun is shining, the days are lengthening, and it's getting warmer.

This week, in addition to our regular updates, we bring you a request from f40, who are campaigning for fairer funding and education reform, and the NGA, urging you to write to your local MP regarding the SEND crisis ahead of the Spending Review. A link to a draft letter that schools can customize is available below.

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

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Contact us

For **governance** queries
email: governorservices@oxfordshire.gov.uk
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For **clerking** queries
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National Updates

Ofsted: Testing our proposals to improve education inspections

A new post, “Testing our proposals to improve education inspections” has just been published on the Ofsted: schools and further education & skills (FES) blog.

A public consultation on their new approach to inspecting education providers. This includes new toolkits for how they will inspect, and the introduction of report cards. Ofsted want to hear from parents, carers, learners and professionals to make sure to understand their views, and consider any changes to the approach as a result.

Read the new post:

<https://educationinspection.blog.gov.uk/2025/02/26/testing-our-proposals-to-improve-education-inspections/>



Supervised toothbrushing for children to prevent tooth decay

Programme will reach up to 600,000 children in most deprived areas.

Children in the most deprived areas of England will get access to a programme to help protect them from tooth decay, the government has announced today.

The supervised toothbrushing programme will be rolled out in early years settings and primary schools, with funding available from April, helping hundreds of thousands of children aged between 3 and 5 years old to develop positive brushing habits.

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Find out more: [Supervised toothbrushing for children to prevent tooth decay - GOV.UK](#)

Oxfordshire Updates

Letter from f40 and the NGA about the crisis in SEND

f40 has partnered with the National Governance Association in drafting [a letter that school and Multi-Academy Trust governing bodies can adapt](#) and send to their local MPs about the crisis in SEND ahead of the Spending Review.

We are encouraging governing bodies to adapt the letter and send it to their local Members of Parliament in the hope they pass on the concern and strength of feeling to the Education Secretary, Treasury, and Government policymakers about the need for increased funding and reform in SEND as a matter of urgency.

[Find out more here](#)



Declaration of interests

Part D of the Financial Manual of Guidance states the requirement for schools to set up and maintain a register of financial interests that includes returns from governors, the headteacher, and other school staff involved in financial management. There is no prescribed form for the register to take, but it must be updated annually and when new members of staff join the school.

[Keeping a register of financial interests](#)

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An internal audit was conducted by the Council's Audit Team late last year. This audit established that not all governing boards are complying with the requirement to declare their interests.

If schools are not appropriately declaring and monitoring interests in accordance with the requirements of the guidance, then this increases the risk of conflicts being undetected or inappropriately managed.

It is a statutory requirement for governors' interests to be recorded and published on the school's website.

Template declaration of interest forms and summary document can be found here [Managing the Governing Board | Oxfordshire Schools](#)

If you prefer, interests can be recorded on your individual governor profile on GovernorHub. GovernorHub will then collate the information into a report which is suitable for use on the school's website.

Sustainability and Climate Action Plans

By 2025, schools are expected to have dedicated sustainability leads and a Climate Action Plan. This includes nominating a sustainability lead and developing a climate action plan.

Eco schools has created a free tool to create a benchmark for schools to start from: [Home - Count Your Carbon](#)

The NGA this week shares resources which are designed to help schools and trusts to develop their climate action plans:

[Sustainability Support for Education](#)

[Climate Ambassadors: SEP Turning Climate Ambition into Climate Action in Education | Climate Ambassadors](#)

[Home | Education Nature Park](#)

What is the governance role in this?

- To encourage a whole school approach
- Take a leadership role
- Support but not to overburden/overload
- Raise awareness



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We have added training sessions to our Governor Training programme this year to support you in this new role. The next session will be held on 12th June 2025, bookable through [GovernorHub](#). Please note that this session is only free to attend if your board subscribes to the Governor Training package. All other delegates will be charged at the pay as you use rate [Governor training | Oxfordshire Schools](#)

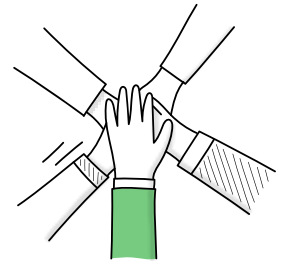
Governor Services Training

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.



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

Our next newsletter will be published on 21st March 2025

With very best wishes from

The Oxfordshire Governor Services Team - Zaheer, Helen and Ruth

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