



Welcome to our governance news update

Welcome back for the last half term of the academic year. We hope you had a restful time over the bank holiday and half term break.

It's National Volunteer Week, and we want to extend our heartfelt thanks to all governors for their incredible dedication and hard work with schools in Oxfordshire. Your commitment as volunteers plays a vital role in the strategic leadership of our schools, and we are very grateful.

If you have any queries about the articles in this newsletter, please do get in touch. We always love to hear from you.

Contact us

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

Zaheer Ahmed
Interim Assistant
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Helen Tate
Governor Support
Officer



Ruth Pangu
Clerk to
Governors Team
Lead

News Update

National Updates



Procurement advice for governing boards: Getting the best value from schools non-staff spend

New guidance has been published to help school governors get the best value from non-staff spend and understand the legal requirements for procurement.

[Procurement advice for governing boards - GOV.UK](#)

Early Years Foundation Stage nutrition: Helping early years providers offer healthy, balanced and nutritious food.

From September 2025, a new requirement is to be included in the safeguarding and welfare requirements of the EYFS that providers must have regard to this nutrition guidance. This means providers must take this guidance into account and should follow it unless there is good reason not to.

This guidance will support providers to understand how to implement the existing EYFS requirement that states: 'Where children are provided with meals, snacks and drinks, these must be healthy, balanced and nutritious'.

[Early Years Foundation Stage nutrition - GOV.UK](#)

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News Update

Partnerships for inclusion of neurodiversity in schools (PINS) programme

A national pilot programme designed to improve outcomes for neurodivergent pupils in mainstream primary schools.

Partnerships for inclusion of neurodiversity in schools (PINS) is a national programme that brings specialist health and education professionals and expert parent carers into mainstream primary schools to:

- help shape whole-school special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) provision
- provide early interventions at a school level
- upskill school staff
- support the strengthening of partnerships between schools and parent carers

[Partnerships for inclusion of neurodiversity in schools \(PINS\) - GOV.UK](#)

Free school meals – extension of entitlement

Guidance has been updated to confirm that all households in receipt of Universal Credit will be entitled to receive free school meals from the start of the 2026 to 2027 school year. Transitional protections have also been extended until the end of the 2025 to 2026 school year.

[Free school meals: guidance for schools and local authorities - GOV.UK](#)

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News Update

Oxfordshire Updates

Oxfordshire Governors' Association meeting - 14th June



The Challenge of SEND – How effective governance can help

Saturday 14th June 2025 from 10.15 a.m. - 12.15p.m

(Refreshments from 10.00 am ~ **buffet lunch** 12.15 - 12.45pm)

At

St Frideswide Church of England Primary School, Cricket Road, Oxford OX4 3DJ

The meeting will explore both local and national issues and the Governance role.

Key Note Speaker: Prof Adam Boddison OBE

Adam will include

- A summary of the national position on SEND provision.
- What does effective SEND governance look like in the current situation?
- What are the implications of the proposed Ofsted SEND toolkit for governance
- An insight into the use of AI

Adam is a very experienced Governor, Trustee and Executive Leader. In addition to more than a decade of experience of school and Trust governance, he has held multiple Chair role. He spent six years as CEO of NASEN (National Association for Special Educational Needs) and was Chair of Whole School SEND.

He has a well-deserved reputation as an outstanding speaker.

Developments in Oxfordshire will be explored by

Deb Smit (Assistant Director, SEND and Inclusion at OCC)

And

Nathan Thomas CEO The Acer Trust,

Nathan is also Chair of Oxfordshire Schools Forum and a member of the Oxfordshire County Education and Inclusion Partnership (OCEP) which is shaping an Oxfordshire Education and Inclusion Strategy prior to consultation.

While the free meeting is aimed primarily at school governors,
others in education will be most welcome.

To book your place please email
judith.bennetts@outlook.com
saying whether or not lunch is
required or via the OGA website –
[contact us](#)

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News Update

Traded Services Buyback - closing soon!

A reminder to ensure that you have signed up to our range of traded service subscriptions for the next academic .This includes **GovernorHub**, the **Clerking Service**, **Governor and Clerks' training programmes**.

We are also for the second year offering **National Governance Association (NGA) membership** at reduced cost. We value the resources and advice given by the NGA and highly recommend schools become members.



GovernorHub

Governor Services
Training



The buyback window will be closing at the end of the month

OCC Clerking
Service

All subscriptions can be found in the store at [Education Services](#).

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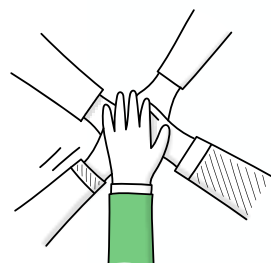
email: clerking.service@oxfordshire.gov.uk

News Update

Governor Services Training

Governor Services training programme

The second half of our summer term training programme is in full swing. Courses can be booked on [GovernorHub](#) or by emailing governortraining@oxfordshire.gov.uk



For full details of the programme this term, see [here](#)

Please check whether your board subscribes to the programme before attending (see below for charging structure)

Head Teacher Appraisal

The **appraisal cycle** for maintained schools in Oxfordshire begins again on 1st September. This is just a reminder that if you are meeting early in the appraisal cycle to review the progress of your headteacher and to set the objectives for the new cycle as we would recommend, the latest DfE guidance says, '*Ensure eligible governors receive relevant training on the appraisal process*'. (DfE: Teacher Appraisal, July 2024)

If you are a governor on the appraisal sub-group, or you would like to consider this role in the future, there are three available dates for training. Hopefully, one of these will allow you to complete your training in time for your first meeting date:

- Wednesday 25 June 19:00-20:30
- Tuesday 30 September 19:00-20:30
- Monday 17 November 19:00-20:30

Booking is through [GovernorHub](#) or by emailing GovernorTraining@Oxfordshire.gov.uk.

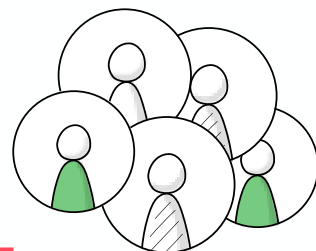
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News Update

Free Summer term briefings

Our last governor briefing of the academic year will be held on 26th June 2025. These sessions are **FREE** for all to attend, whether your school subscribes to our training programme or not. To book a place, please register [here](#)

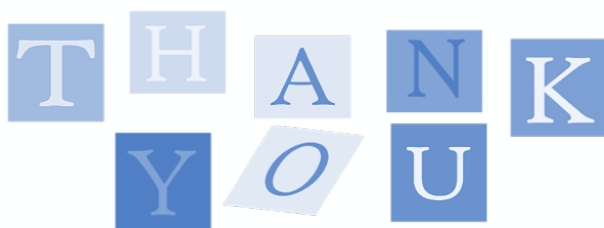


Charging for training

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.



...for everything you do for
children in Oxfordshire

Our next newsletter will be published on Friday 20th June 2025.

With very best wishes

The Oxfordshire Governor Services Team -

Zaheer, Helen and Ruth

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