



Welcome to our governance news update

As we head into the summer holidays, we want to extend our heartfelt thanks to you for your time and commitment in supporting schools throughout this academic year. Your dedication to the children of Oxfordshire is really appreciated.

This is our last newsletter of the academic year, so we just have a few updates for you, and a little bit of forward planning for next year.

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
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Governor Support
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Ruth Pangu
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Lead

News Update

National Updates

Early years foundation stage (EYFS) statutory framework

A new version of 'EYFS statutory framework group and school-based providers' has been published. The new version is effective from 1 September 2025. Until then, the current frameworks apply.

[Early years foundation stage \(EYFS\) statutory framework - GOV.UK](#)



Conversation guide for workload and wellbeing in schools and academy trusts

Useful question prompts to stimulate conversations with governors, trustees and staff in schools and academy trusts about workload and wellbeing.

[Conversation guide for workload and wellbeing in schools and academy trusts - GOV.UK](#)



The writing framework

The new writing framework outlines a common approach to teaching writing based on evidence and existing good practice.

[The writing framework - GOV.UK](#)



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News Update

NGA annual governance survey 2025 published

Conducted by NGA for 15 consecutive years, the Annual Governance Survey offers a window into the views and experiences of school and trust governing boards.

This year's findings confirm once again the commitment, insight and influence that those governing bring to the table. But they also highlight ongoing tensions in the system and the urgent need to ensure that boards are resourced and empowered to continue fulfilling their core purpose: improving outcomes for children and young people.

[School and trust governance survey 2025 | National Governance Association](#)



Relationships and sex education (RSE) and health education

Revised guidance on 'Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education' which will come into force 1 September 2026 has been published.

[Relationships and sex education \(RSE\) and health education - GOV.UK](#)

DfE commentary on the guidance can be found here:

[Misogynistic myths kicked out of classrooms to protect children - GOV.UK](#)

The detailed findings of the consultation and the government's response can be found here:

[Review of the RSHE statutory guidance - GOV.UK](#)



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News Update

Oxfordshire Updates

Planning for the autumn term - Headteacher Appraisals

A statutory process in maintained schools which is also considered best practice for academies.

- The process is delegated to the headteacher sub-group, a group of two or preferably **three governors** appointed by the board.
- Governors who sit on this sub-group **should have training**.
- In maintained schools, the headteacher appraisal panel must be supported by a suitably skilled and/or **experienced external adviser** appointed by the board.

How Governor Services can help

Training sessions

Tuesday **30 Sept 2025** 7pm - 8.30pm

Monday **17 Nov 2025** 7pm - 8.30pm

These sessions are part of our governor training package and can be booked:

Directly through [GovernorHub](#)

OR

By contacting Governor Services on

GovernorTraining@Oxfordshire.gov.uk

External Advisor

An experienced adviser can be commissioned through Governor Services.

A new process:

To purchase one of the Headteacher Appraisal Packages, please ask your school to visit:

<https://secure2.slaonline.co.uk/v3/Store/Index> where, after logging in, an external adviser can be booked in the Services section at the bottom of the page.

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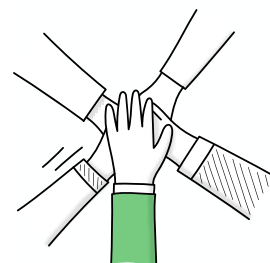
email: clerking.service@oxfordshire.gov.uk

News Update

Governor Services Training

Governor Services training programme

Thank you to all the governors and governance professionals who attended our training, events and briefings over the last year. We hope you found them useful and are able to apply the training to your work.



Our autumn term training programme is now available [here](#) and sessions can be booked on [GovernorHub](#) or by emailing governortraining@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Free briefings

We will be continuing our free briefings, both for governors and governance professionals, throughout the next academic year, so please do sign up. Topics will vary, so watch out nearer the time for an agenda.

[OCC Governor Services briefing 1](#) – Thurs 2nd October 6pm

Autumn governance professional briefing - **23rd September** (provisional date)

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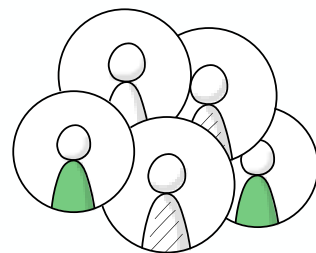
News Update

Charging for training

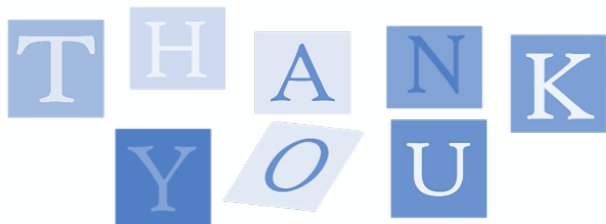
Please check if your board has subscribed to the Governor Services training package before booking.

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.



It's not too late to subscribe to training for next year! Drop us an email and we can arrange it for you



...for everything you do for
children in Oxfordshire

We hope you have an enjoyable and restful summer.

The Governor Services team will be working throughout the holiday should you need us, and we look forward to supporting you during the next academic year.

With very best wishes

The Oxfordshire Governor Services Team -

Zaheer, Helen, Ruth and Rachel

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