



Welcome to our governance news update

The start of the new academic year! We hope you had an enjoyable summer.

This year, our newsletters will continue to provide both national and Oxfordshire-specific updates. We also plan to share timely reminders and helpful tips to assist you in your governance duties, along with information about upcoming training sessions.

We trust you will find these updates valuable. Please feel free to reach out with any questions or feedback—we always appreciate hearing 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



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Helen Tate

Governor Support
Officer



Ruth Pangu

Clerk to Governors
Team Lead

News Update

National Updates



Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025

The new version of Keeping Children Safe in Education statutory guidance came into force on 1st September 2025.

For clarity, all governors should read and understand all of it.

[Keeping children safe in education - GOV.UK](#)

Ofsted – new inspection framework

The new inspection changes have been confirmed.

[Ofsted confirms changes to education inspection and unveils new-look report cards - GOV.UK](#)

From September 2025, providers can attend live webinars that set out the main changes to education inspections starting in November 2025:

[Education inspection framework: engagement programme - GOV.UK](#)

Early years foundation stage (EYFS) new statutory framework

The new EYFS statutory framework group and school-based providers' came into effect on 1 September 2025.

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

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News Update

Staffing and Employment: guidance for schools

To provide consistency in the information available to all schools in support of their handling of staffing and employment matters, the departments statutory Guidance on Managing Staff Employment in Schools has been withdrawn. Governors and headteachers of maintained schools, are expected to make use of this new non-statutory guidance, and the sources of help it identifies, when carrying out staffing and employment duties.

[Staffing and employment: guidance for schools - GOV.UK](#)

PE & Sports premium – deadline extended

The DfE is aware of digital issues that a number of schools experienced accessing the return and so has extended the deadline for submission of the return to 5pm on **Tuesday 30th September**

[Complete the PE and sport premium expenditure reporting return - GOV.UK](#)

Children Missing in Education

Statutory guidance has been updated to address inconsistencies in practice and add clarity, including on schools and local authorities working together to identify and support children missing education. The document is now issued as statutory for schools as well as local authorities. Existing legislation already requires schools to carry out these responsibilities. A summary of responsibilities, and a policy and procedure checklist has also been added.

[Children missing education - GOV.UK](#)

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News Update

Other updates you may be interested

- **Eco Schools**

Register for free for resources to support your climate action plan

[About - Eco Schools](#)

- **RSHE Update**

The outcome of the recent consultation has been published

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

- **Martyn's Law**

Advance warning of new requirements for schools

[Martyn's law for education settings - GOV.UK](#)

- **AI in Education**

Added summary information about Ofsted's new guidance on looking at AI during inspection and Ofsted's research findings into using AI.

[Generative artificial intelligence \(AI\) in education - GOV.UK](#)

- **School Organisation – making significant changes**

Updated guidance for maintained schools and academies

[School organisation: local-authority-maintained schools - GOV.UK](#)

[Academies: making significant changes or closure by agreement - GOV.UK](#)

- **Giving every child the best start in life**

Government strategy document

[Giving every child the best start in life - GOV.UK](#)

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News Update

Oxfordshire Updates

Annual Schedule of Governing Board Business

We recently published our annual schedule. All items which are statutory are highlighted in **Bold**, everything else is considered good governance.

Please note that an error has been spotted in A3.5 – there is no online return for pupil premium. The online version will be updated shortly.

The latest version of the schedule can be found here:

[Annual Schedule of Governing Board Business](#)

Annual Safeguarding report

The final submission date for the annual safeguarding audit is **Friday 28th November 2025**. Before this date, the report must have been reviewed and approved by the full governing board.

Experienced governors wanted

Are you an experienced governor who is interested in supporting other schools in Oxfordshire?

Do you have the capacity to share your experience by joining another governing board?

If this sounds like you, we'd love to hear from you.

Please complete our short Microsoft Form here: [OCC Governor Register of Interest](#), and we'll be in touch to connect you with schools looking to develop their boards.

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News Update

To do this term

The autumn term is the time when boards set themselves up for the academic year ahead. It is a time of reflection and planning.

Here are some key tasks for the autumn term. For greater detail, please look on the

[Annual Schedule of Governing Board Business](#)

NB elections and planning can be done in the summer term so that you are set to hit the ground running in the autumn:

Elections and planning (for summer or autumn term)

- ☐ Elect chair and vice chair
- ☐ Agree clerking arrangements for FGB and committees
- ☐ Agree terms of reference and membership of any committees
- ☐ Assign link governors to roles
- ☐ Agreed the scheme of delegation of roles and responsibilities, including policy review
- ☐ Appoint HT appraisal panel including external advisor
- ☐ Plan all governor meetings for the academic year.

Autumn term tasks

- ☐ Update register of pecuniary interests and publish on the school's website
- ☐ Read and confirm you have read the new version of KCSiE
- ☐ Adopt the governor's code of conduct
- ☐ Ensure the school's website is up to date
- ☐ Ensure GIAS is up to date
- ☐ Approve Pupil Premium strategy and publish on the school's website
- ☐ Review, approve and submit the annual safeguarding report (section 175)
- ☐ Ensure that governor and staff safeguarding training is up to date
- ☐ Conduct a governor skills audit
- ☐ Review governor vacancies and plan to fill them
- ☐ Review performance data for the last academic year
- ☐ Agreed the school's SEF
- ☐ Agree the schools SDP
- ☐ Agree governor monitoring plan
- ☐ Agree the content and frequency of HT reports

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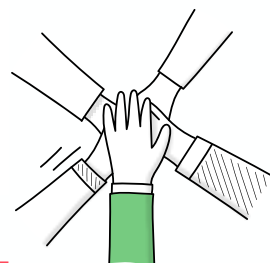
email: clerking.service@oxfordshire.gov.uk

News Update

Governor Services Training

Governor Services training programme

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



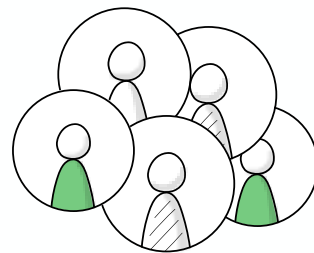
Free briefings

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

The first governor briefing of the year will be held **on 2nd October at 18:00**

If you have access to Governor Services GovernorHub you can book a place here: [GovernorHub](#)

If not, please email us and we can book a place for you.



Free Training sessions

The first free training event of the year is [Affordable Schools: a strategic look at school finances for maintained schools](#)

taking place on Tuesday 23rd September at 19:00-20:30

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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 and governance professionals (clerks) 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

With best wishes

The Oxfordshire Governor Services Team -

Kim, Helen and Ruth

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