



Welcome to our governance news update

Hello

We've made it to the October half term break. It's been a busy time for schools, and governing boards as the start of the autumn term always is, but we have enjoyed hearing from lots of you and seeing you all in our training and briefing sessions.

Just a few updates and forthcoming events to make you aware of this week.

Contact us

For **governance** queries

email: governorservices@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Phone: 0330 0249 046

For **clerking** queries

email: clerking.service@oxfordshire.gov.uk



Kim Wilson

Assistant Director –
Schools and Settings
(Standards, Performance
and Effectiveness)



Helen Tate

Governor Support
Officer



Ruth Pangu

Clerk to Governors
Team Lead

News Update

National Updates



Primary assessment future dates

This page summarises future assessment dates in primary schools, to assist schools with their forward planning. Assessment dates for the academic year 2027 to 2028 have been added.

[Primary assessments: future dates - GOV.UK](#)

Secretary of State for Education letter to Chair of the Education Select Committee: 22 October 2025

Education Secretary Bridget Phillipson writes to the Education Select Committee following their report on the special educational needs and disability (SEND) system.

[SEND reform: Education Secretary writes to the Education Select Committee - GOV.UK](#)

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News Update

Cost of school uniform

Statutory guidance on developing a school uniform policy and managing uniform suppliers to ensure the cost of uniforms is reasonable.

Change made:

Updated the guidance, which now includes draft statutory guidance relating to the proposed limit on the number of branded items of school uniform and PE kit that schools can require.



[Cost of school uniforms - GOV.UK](#)

Schools and colleges: apply for urgent capital support

Guidance on how eligible schools and colleges can apply for funding to address urgent condition issues that pose the threat of immediate school closure.

[Schools and colleges: apply for urgent capital support - GOV.UK](#)

Condition improvement fund: guidance for schools

Information for schools and colleges on the condition improvement fund, which aims to keep buildings safe and in good working order.

[Condition improvement fund: guidance for schools - GOV.UK](#)

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News Update

Oxfordshire Updates

Schools News

The Oxfordshire County Council's Schools Newsletter is your go-to for the latest school news and updates. Sent out every Tuesday during term time, it keeps you in the loop with important announcements, exciting events, and new initiatives. Make sure to check your inbox each week to stay connected and informed!

Subscribe by visiting [Schools news | Oxfordshire Schools](#)

Supporting Services pupils – new FREE training

We have added the course below to our Bitesize free training offering.

Oxfordshire has a very large military presence with an estimated 3500 families living and working in the county. Many of our schools have pupils from these service families, and whether you have the majority of pupils from service families or you just have one or two in your school, it is important to consider this group of pupils and their needs.

This training will explain what your duties are, what the research shows about this pupil group, and what support is in place to support both you and the children.



[Meeting the Armed Forces Covenant Duty | Oxfordshire Schools](#)

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News Update

Oxfordshire Governance Association Meeting



Navigating AI: Essentials for School Governance.

At

North Hinksey C. of E. Primary School
North Hinksey Lane Oxford, OX2 0LZ

Saturday 22nd November 2025 at 10.00 – 12.30 pm

(Refreshments from 9.30 am ~ buffet lunch from 12.30 pm)

Rob Peters

**Director of Marketing and Communications
National Governance Association**

Rob is an experienced leader with over twenty years management experience he combines a strong technical background with an analytical approach. He is also experienced in trust governance and has worked for NGA for two years.

While this free meeting is aimed primarily at school governors, others in education or with an interest in this topic will be most welcome to join us.

The OGA AGM with a discussion about the future of OGA will also form part of the meeting. Papers for the AGM will be sent out in advance of the meeting.

To book your place please email
info@oga4schoolgovernors.org.uk
saying whether or not lunch is required.

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News Update

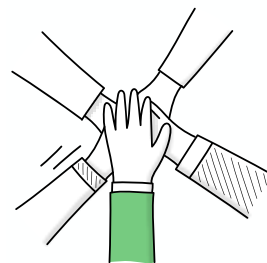
Governor Services Training

Governor Services training programme

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

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

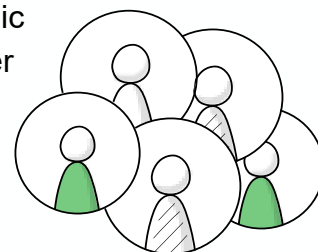
The Spring term training programme will be available in the next couple of weeks



Free briefings

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

Our next **Governor Briefing** will be held on Thursday 4th December 2025. Book a place here: [GovernorHub](#)



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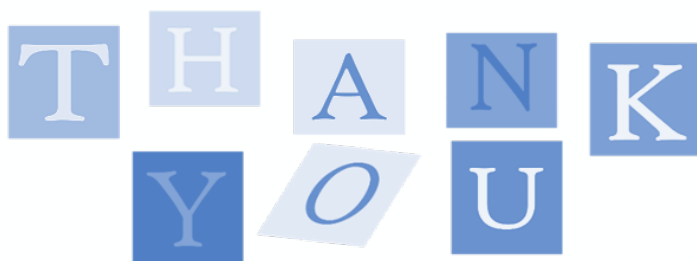
News Update

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.



...for everything you do for children in Oxfordshire

With best wishes

The Oxfordshire Governor Services Team -

Kim, Helen and Ruth

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