



Welcome to our governance news update

It's hard to believe that we are almost one third of the way through the academic year already.

This is our last news update before the Christmas break. Time to thank you all for the work you do to improve the lives of the children in your communities in Oxfordshire. We are grateful for the time you give and the commitment you show to your role.

As always, if you have any questions about the contents of the newsletter, please do get in touch.

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

Maximising value for pupils: guidance for schools and trusts

A range of guidance and resources has been published recently by the DfE on maximising financial resources in schools:

[Maximising value for pupils: guidance for schools and trusts - GOV.UK](#)

The guidance and policy document on this page:

- support schools and trusts to maximise value from resources
- describe the government's policy on helping schools and trusts plan and manage resources effectively through 4 key pillars:
 - commercial
 - assets
 - workforce
 - developing capability, including digital and technology



RISE attendance and behaviour hubs programme

Guidance for school leaders on the RISE attendance and behaviour hubs programme, its benefits and support, and how to join.

[RISE attendance and behaviour hubs programme - GOV.UK](#)

Government launches its Child Poverty Strategy

[Over half a million children to be lifted out of poverty as government unveils historic child poverty strategy - GOV.UK](#)

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News Update

NGA – Policy paper on SEND reform

NGA is calling on the Department for Education (DfE) to ensure all pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) receive timely and high quality support.

[How do you solve a problem like the SEND system? | National Governance Association](#)



Ofsted School inspections FAQs

Since [the renewed inspection framework](#) was published on 9 September 2025, Ofsted has done lots of online and face-to-face engagement with schools to answer your questions. They have published the most frequently asked questions online, so you can see all the answers in on place.

They are planning to regularly update this.

If you want to watch any of the webinars, you can find them on Ofsted's [YouTube playlist](#).

[School inspections: frequently asked questions – Ofsted: education](#)



Free training on Sustainability from Eco-Schools

Eco-Schools England has announced that, they will once again be offering **free Eco-Schools** training throughout the 2025–2026 academic year.

These sessions are open to any adult working in a school, college, or nursery in England, and are designed to equip educators with practical advice, inspiring ideas, and real-life examples to support youth-led environmental action and embed sustainability into everyday learning.



Projects of the type suggested by Eco-Schools can help you to meet your responsibility to develop a Climate Action Plan

[Eco-Schools' Training - Eco Schools](#)

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News Update

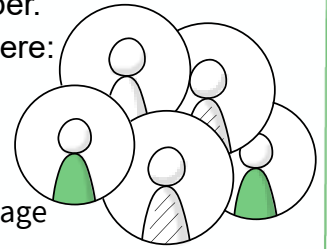
Oxfordshire Updates

Governor Briefing slides

Thank you to all who attended our governor briefing on 4th December. The slides are now available on the Oxfordshire Schools website here:

[Governor Briefing Slides](#)

Topics covered included a Safeguarding update from the LADO, information on Data Subject Access Requests (DSARS) and how to manage them, Migration away from GovernorHub, Martyn's Law, the Clerking Service and a few other updates and reminders from the Governor Services team.



Migration update

Pilot Scheme

We now have 4 schools live on the new system with our working group governance professionals as part of our pilot programme and all have conducted their first meeting using the new system to manage that meeting.



Training

FREE Training sessions are now available to book

Governors: Thursday 29th January 12.30pm (1hr)
[Book here](#) Tuesday 24th February 6pm (1hr)

Governance Tuesday 20th January 12 noon

Professionals (clerks): Tuesday 27th January 4pm
[Book here](#)

**Book
now!**

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News Update

Governor Services Training

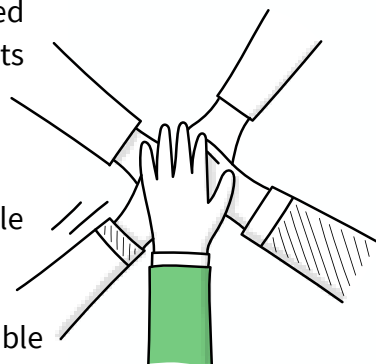
Spring term training programme out now

Our autumn training programme is now complete. We have trained 563 governors, delivered 28 training sessions, 2 free training events and 2 free Governor Services briefings with an average feedback score of over 4.5 on each question.

Thank you to everyone who attended. We hope you have been able to apply what you learned in your schools.

Full details of our Spring term training programme are now available on the Schools website here: [Governor training | Oxfordshire Schools](#) and all sessions are available to book on [GovernorHub](#)

Don't forget to have a look at our free Bitesize training which you can access at any time [here](#)



Charging for training – a reminder

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. Any free briefings or events are clearly indicated

Pay-as-you-use rates for non-subscribers (academic year 2025/26 rates)

Governor Induction	£250 per governor
Clerk's Induction	£250 per governance professional (clerk)
All other training courses	£160 per attendee

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News Update



...for everything you do for children in Oxfordshire

This our last newsletter of the term. We wish you all a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and look forward to working with you all in 2026.

With best wishes

The Oxfordshire Governor Services Team -

Kim, Helen and Ruth

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