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Welcome to our governance news update

The term seems to be flying by and the Easter break is rapidly approaching.

A quieter week this week for updates.

Please could I draw your attention to the **survey on the Annual Schedule of Governing Board Business**. We would really appreciate your input on this very popular document, even if it is to tell us that you like it exactly as it currently is.

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

News Update

National Updates

New Ofsted blog about Complaint Handling

A new post, “How we consider complaints about schools” has just been published on the Ofsted: education blog.

[How we consider complaints about schools - Ofsted: education](#)



Stronger Protections for Children with Allergies

Life-saving allergy pens must be stocked by schools for the first time under new plans. The move will also see compulsory training for teachers and a requirement for each school to have a dedicated allergy policy.

[Stronger protections for children with allergies in school - GOV.UK](#)



Support for pupils with medical conditions at school – views sought

The government is seeking views on updates to guidance to strengthen how schools support pupils with medical conditions and allergies. The consultation closes on **1st May 2026**.

[Proposal on support for pupils with medical conditions at school - GOV.UK](#)

[Medical conditions at school: statutory guidance - Department for Education - Citizen Space](#)

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News Update



RISE Support for Reception Improvement

Professional development resources for improving teaching and leadership of reception years.

This has been updated to include information on the reception improvement support available, including early years foundation stage profile assessment support and reception networks.

[Reception improvement offer - GOV.UK](#)

[Reception networks - GOV.UK](#)

Latest Attendance Data

Data on the levels of attendance and overall, authorised and unauthorised absence in state-funded primary, secondary and special schools has been published for the period 8 September 2025 to 20 February 2026.

[Pupil attendance in schools, Week 7 2026 - Explore education statistics - GOV.UK](#)

Antisemitism review into schools and colleges launched

On 4 March the government launched an independent review into how schools and colleges in England identify, respond to and prevent antisemitism, led by Sir David Bell, with recommendations due Autumn 2026.

[Government launch antisemitism review into schools and colleges](#)

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News Update

Oxfordshire Updates



Annual Schedule of Governing Board Business – feedback please

We are about to start our annual refresh of our Oxfordshire [Annual Schedule of Governing Board Business](#) and want to ensure that it is still meeting your needs. All suggestions will be gratefully received and taken into consideration.

Please complete the form in the link below. It should take no more than 5 minutes.

Many thanks for your feedback

[Oxfordshire Annual Schedule of Governing Board Business Feedback Survey – Fill in form](#)

What do
you think?

Governor Services



Annual Schedule of Governing Board Business

Academic Year 2025-2026

Autumn Term 2025

Key Priorities for the Autumn term:

Structure: Clarify vision, strategic direction, risks and priorities. Review of structure of the board (committees, delegation of duties etc.)

People: Election and appointment of governors to roles/committees

Accountability: Collect baseline data

| Ref | Governing Board Task | Comments | Guidance/Documents link | Done |
|------|--|---|---|------|
| A1 | Organisation of the Board: | Structures and People | | |
| A1.1 | Elect Chair and Vice Chair and agree the length of their term of office. | Only if their term of office has ended. Some boards prefer to hold elections in the summer term, so they are more prepared in September | OCC GS Chair and vice-chair election guidance School governance regulations 2013 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) (regulation 7, 8 and 9) | |

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News Update

Oxfordshire Governors' Association information

Run by governors for governors

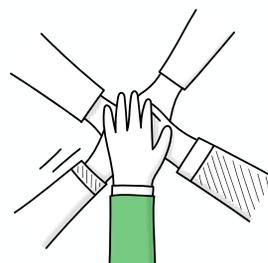
- The independent voice of Oxfordshire governors
- Free open meetings with topical speakers – all are welcome
- Website with “Busy Governor Guides”
- We represent you at Oxfordshire County Council and National Governance Association
- We respond to local and national consultations
- We can help with volunteers for panels etc.
- Subscribe via Traded Services – only £15 per year for your school



Heads and Chairs Briefing slides - 26th February 2026

Please follow the link to the slides from the last Heads and Chairs meeting

[Heads and Chairs Briefing | Oxfordshire Schools](#)



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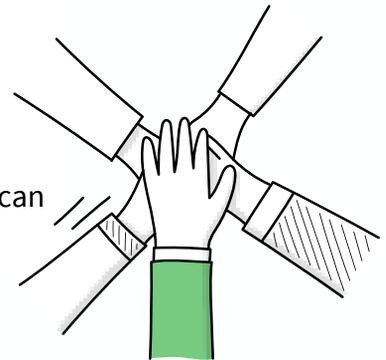
News Update

Governor Services Training

Governor Services Training programmes

Our Spring training programme continues until the Easter holidays. Full details of our **Summer 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

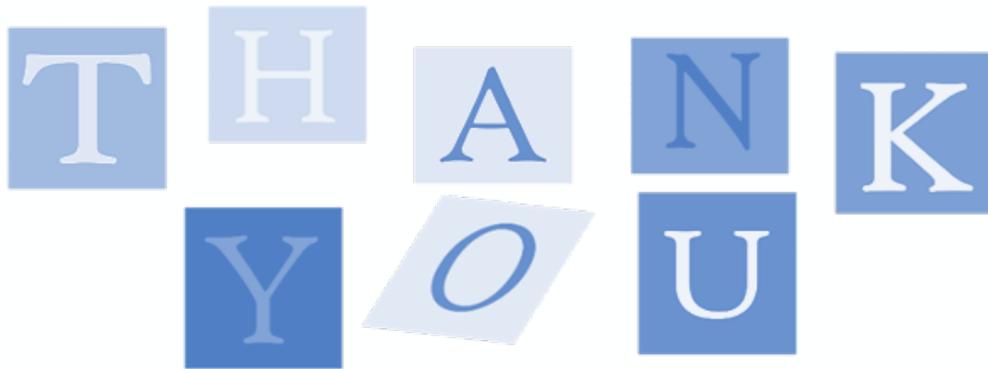
Please check if your board has subscribed to the Governor Services training package before booking. Governors at schools that subscribe can register for as much training as you like at no additional cost.

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

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News Update



...for everything you do for children in Oxfordshire

Our next newsletter will be published on 27th March 2026.

With best wishes

The Oxfordshire Governor Services Team -

Jeremy, Helen and Ruth

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