



## Welcome to our governance news update

Welcome to our first governance newsletter of the summer term.

The picture this week had to be of bluebells, which are in full bloom and stunning this year in Oxfordshire.

It was lovely to see so many of you at our briefing this week. The slides are now available on GovernorHub, so please do take a look (link on P5).

And we welcomed our permanent Service Manager on Monday – Tricia Bunn. Please see page 2 for an introduction from her.



**Tricia Bunn**  
Service Manager for  
School Effectiveness and  
Governance



**Helen Tate**  
Governor Support  
Officer



**Ruth Pangu**  
Clerk to Governors  
Team Lead

### Contact us

For **governance** queries  
email: [governorservices@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:governorservices@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Phone: 0330 0249 046

For **clerking** queries  
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### Oxfordshire Updates

## Hello from Tricia Bunn New Service Manager: Schools and Governance

I am pleased to introduce myself as the new Service Manager for Schools and Governance at Oxfordshire County Council. My career has included headship in both MAT and local authority settings, senior roles in school improvement, and extensive experience as a governor and Interim Executive Board member. I have worked across a wide range of school contexts, supporting leaders and governing boards to strengthen strategic leadership, improve outcomes, and meet their statutory responsibilities with clarity and confidence.

In this role, I will be managing both governance and school improvement, ensuring that these functions are aligned, coherent, and working together to provide effective support for schools. My focus is on strong partnerships, clear communication, and creating the conditions in which leaders, governors, and—most importantly—children and young people can thrive.

I look forward to getting to know you, understanding your context, and working together to strengthen governance and school improvement across the county.

**Tricia Bunn**

**Service Manager: Schools and Governance**

**Children, Education and Families**



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## News Update

### OCC Clerking Service – Join Us!

Our Clerking Service is going from strength to strength and continuing to grow. In our most recent Quality Assurance Survey **92.9%** of Chairs responding indicated that they would recommend our service to other colleagues. Additional comments received include:

Our clerk is outstanding and is a major factor in the smooth running of our board.

As chair of governors, I simply wouldn't be able to do my job without the help and support of the clerk.

Huge congratulations to our current team of Governance Professionals who work so diligently, professionally and with such commitment to maintain our high standards!

Our Governance Professional is excellent in every way. We want to keep her working with us for the future.

Our clerk has been amazing, she has supported the whole governing body and helped me personally on my journey as a Chair.

We are incredibly grateful to our clerk who is highly professional, easy to work with, understands any issues that arise and on whom we rely for all advice.

With the ever increasing demand from schools across the full breadth of our county, we need to **recruit new members to our team**. We are particularly keen to attract applicants with a school or governance background and so would be extremely grateful if boards and schools would promote this opportunity on noticeboards and through newsletters to staff and parents. Our clerking vacancy will be going live on the OCC jobs website next week. In the meantime, for more information or an informal chat, please contact me, **Ruth Pangu, Clerk to Governors Team Lead** on [Clerking.Service@Oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Clerking.Service@Oxfordshire.gov.uk) and I will be very pleased to answer any questions. Thank you.

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## News Update

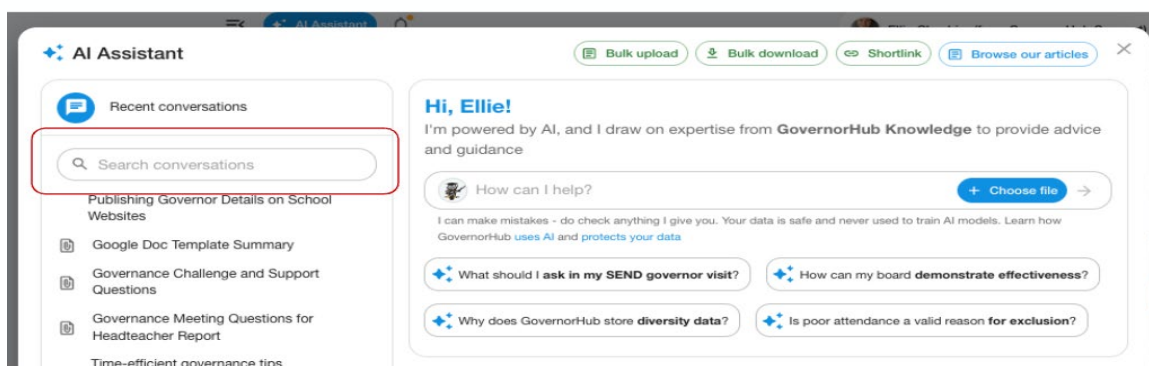
### GovernorHub Functionality Updates

GovernorHub has shared a couple of updates to functionality with us which you may find useful:



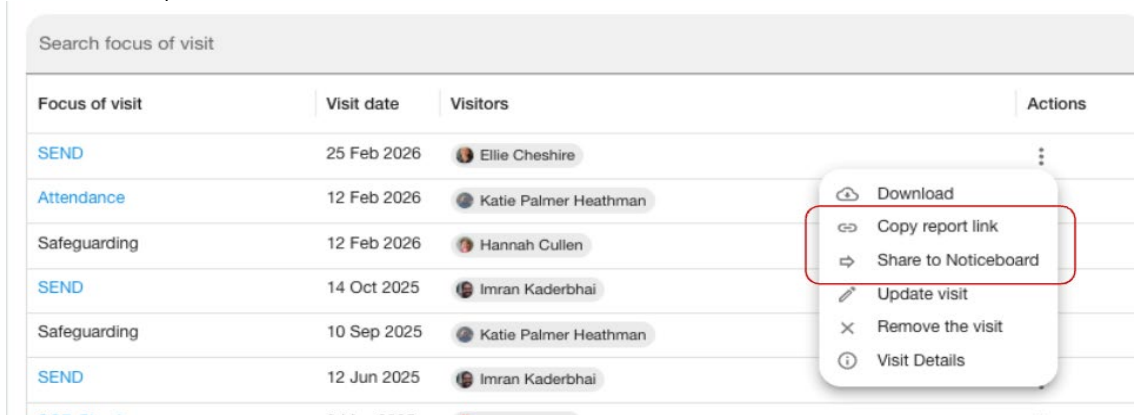
#### AI Assistant now has a 'search conversations' function

A new search function has been added into the 'Recent conversations' list. Just type in the search function to find past conversations and don't forget, if you want to copy and paste it to use anywhere else just use the copy button at the end of the response itself. If you prefer to browse all of your chats in one hit - you can still scroll down the list and the full list will open up.



#### Visit records now have a share to noticeboard and a copy report link function

This will help those that want to put any visits for discussion at a meeting in the relevant meeting folder. It'll also help you add links to reports in agendas or other documents/emails etc.



The screenshot shows a table of visit records. A context menu is open over the 'Attendance' row, with 'Copy report link' and 'Share to Noticeboard' highlighted by a red box.

Focus of visit	Visit date	Visitors	Actions
SEND	25 Feb 2026	Ellie Cheshire	Download
Attendance	12 Feb 2026	Katie Palmer Heathman	Copy report link Share to Noticeboard Update visit
Safeguarding	12 Feb 2026	Hannah Cullen	Remove the visit
SEND	14 Oct 2025	Imran Kaderbhai	Visit Details
Safeguarding	10 Sep 2025	Katie Palmer Heathman	
SEND	12 Jun 2025	Imran Kaderbhai	

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### Governor Briefing

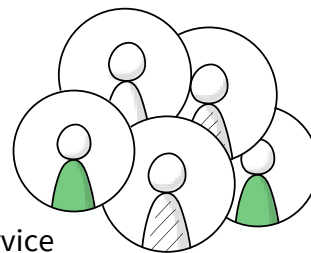
Thank you to all who attended our briefing on Monday. I hope you found it useful.

We had a guest speaker from Governors for Schools on filling vacancies, and presentations on Safeguarding, Early Years and Service Pupils as well as our usual updates from the Governor Services team.

The slides from the briefing can be found here: [Governor Briefing 4](#)

Our last briefing of the academic year will be held on 30<sup>th</sup> June at 6pm

[Book here](#)



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### Attendance

Attendance is a key priority for Ofsted and an important area for governing boards to understand. Strong governor oversight of attendance helps ensure the school supports pupils effectively, meets statutory expectations, and maintains a culture of high ambition and inclusion.

Our new question bank is now available to help boards to:

- Provide support and challenge to their schools
- Record governor awareness, actions, and impact in minutes.

[Attendance in Schools - Question Bank](#)

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## News Update

### National Updates



#### Updates on School Foods Standards

New plans to overhaul school dinners, helping to tackle obesity

[Government scraps high-sugar food from school menus - GOV.UK](#)

#### Government consultation on School Food Standards

The government has opened their consultation on the new School Food Standards. This consultation is open for 12 weeks and will collate responses from everyone interested in school food. To find further information and to have your say, follow this link:

[School Food Standards: updating the legislative framework - Department for Education - Citizen Space](#)

#### Net Capacity Assessment

A tool to measure net pupil capacity in schools, with guidance on the methodology. From September 2025, the Department for Education's (DfE's) NCA programme will ensure that accurate and up-to-date information on pupil capacity is available for government-funded primary schools in England.

The Valuation Office (VO) will visit primary schools to collect data on pupil capacity.

[Net capacity assessment tool - GOV.UK](#)

[Net capacity assessment programme for primary schools - GOV.UK](#)

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### Service Pupil Premium

These pages contain Information for service personnel with children in state schools, and for the schools themselves, about eligibility for the service pupil premium (SPP).

The documents 'Service pupil premium: what you need to know' and 'Service pupil premium: further information' have been updated for the 2026 to 2027 financial year.

[Service pupil premium - GOV.UK](#)

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### Regional counter-terrorism strategy (CONTEST) co-ordinators

The Department for Education regional counter-terrorism strategy coordinators support the delivery of the department's contribution to the UK counter terrorism strategy.

This page contains further details of their work and the details and dates of virtual training sessions they are running:

[Regional CONTEST co-ordinators - GOV.UK](#)

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### RISE support for reception improvement

[Getting children ready for reception: supporting effective transition](#) offers guidance on how schools and early years settings, including childminders, can work together with parents and carers to support children's transition into reception.

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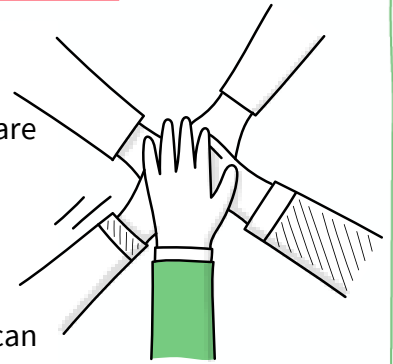
## News Update

### Governor Services Training

#### Governor Services Training programmes

Our summer term training programme is in full swing. Full details 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](#)



#### Summer Term Governance Professionals' Briefing Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April

**FREE to attend**

If you are a Governance Professional (Clerk) in Oxfordshire, you are welcome to join us for our **free summer term Briefing**. This virtual session will run next Thursday from 1pm – 2.30pm on Teams and can be booked through GovernorHub: [Book Here](#).

We look forward to seeing you there.

#### 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.

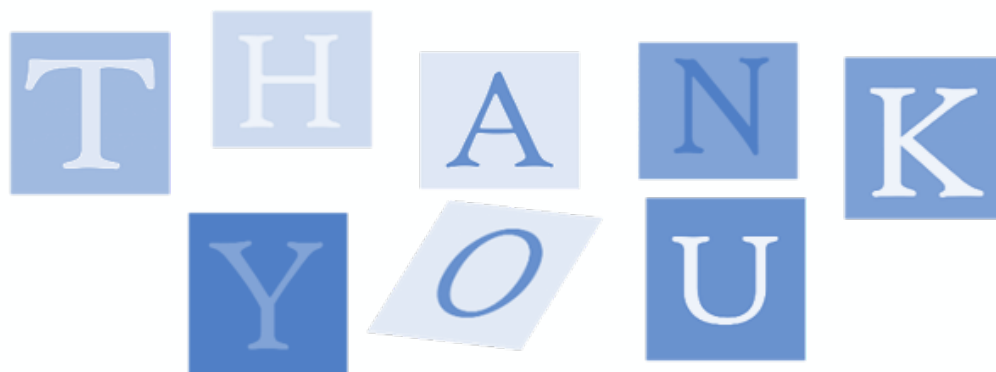
**For governors at schools that do not currently subscribe, there is a charge to attend, and schools will be invoiced after the event. Any free briefings or events are clearly indicated**

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...for everything you do for children in Oxfordshire

Our next newsletter will be published on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2026.

With best wishes

*The Oxfordshire Governor Services Team -*

*Trícia, Helen and Ruth*

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