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Welcome to our governance news update

The Easter holidays are upon us, and the Summer term is just around the corner. It's been a busy term and as always, we are very grateful for the hard work and time you dedicate to improving the lives of Oxfordshire children.

Thank you to those who have completed the Annual Schedule survey. The feedback is really useful. We would appreciate your input on this very popular document, even if it is to tell us that you like it exactly as it currently is, so please do spare us a couple of minutes to tell us what you think. The link is below.

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

A new post, “How Ofsted is putting children known to social care at the heart of education inspections” has been published on the Ofsted: education blog.

Children in care are among the most vulnerable in our society. Too often they face significant challenges that can make success harder to achieve. Yet we also know how transformative the right support can be.

[How Ofsted is putting children known to social care at the heart of education inspections – Ofsted: education](#)



Family Routes Report published

Report published exploring the educational outcomes of children who remained in long-term foster care after entering care before the age of 8.

Family Routes is a longitudinal study that explores the longer-term outcomes of children in different types of permanence arrangements.

This report focuses on children who local authorities decided should have a stable, permanent placement in long-term foster care.

It considers:

- educational outcomes up to the age of 24
- the stability of the long-term placement

[DfE research report template](#)



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News Update

Working together to Safeguard Children

Statutory guidance on multi-agency working to help, support and protect children has been updated for 2026.

Note – this is **not** the same as Keeping Children Safe in Education, which is usually updated in September.

[Working together to safeguard children 2026: a guide to multi-agency working to help, protect and promote the welfare of children](#)



[Working together to safeguard children 2026: summary of changes - GOV.UK](#)

Data Protection in Schools

The policies and processes schools and multi-academy trusts need to protect personal data and respond effectively to a personal data breach have been updated. Changes include updates to Generative artificial intelligence (AI) and data protection in schools.

[Data protection in schools - Guidance - GOV.UK](#)

Is your school ready for the RSHE changes which come into force in September?

From September 2026, all schools will be legally required to update their RSHE (Relationships Sex and Health Education) and curriculum and have an up-to-date written policy for relationships education or (where applicable) RSE in place.

This blog by the NGA summarises what is changing and the actions needed.

[RSHE 2026: Statutory changes you need to know | National Governance Association](#)



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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.

All feedback is useful, even if you like it the way it is.

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

Last chance to comment!

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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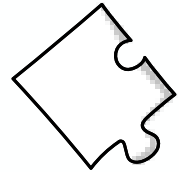
News Update

Budget sign off reminder

School budget shares 2026-27

The guide to schools' funding and finance for 2026-27 has been published. The covering letter to support the budget allocations for 2026-27 has also been published.

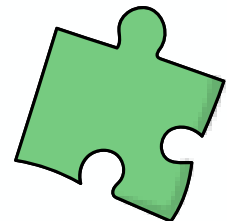
Both documents can be accessed on the [Budget and financial planning | Oxfordshire Schools](#) page.



Please ensure you are ready to sign off the budget when you return after the Easter holidays. Deadlines are at the start of May.

BuyBack of traded services now open!

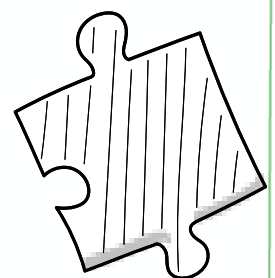
The annual buyback of traded services is now open on Education Services. Your headteacher or school business manager will have access to review the services available for the next academic year. This includes the Clerking Service and Governor Training packages, as well as others. Please ensure you discuss this as a board and sign up



Foundation governor approval dates

A reminder that if you have Foundation governor appointments or reappointments in progress, the next diocesan meeting to approve these takes place on **28th April**, so please make sure you get the paperwork to them before then.

The last meeting of the academic year for the approval of Foundation governors will be **3rd June**



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News Update

Action on Carbon and Energy in Schools (ACES)

New partner

We are Chamberlains Aqua & Energy Systems Ltd. (CAESL), new partner of Oxfordshire City Council (OCC) in Action on Carbon & Energy in Schools (ACES) programme.

As part of the **ACES** programme, our team is now working directly with schools across the county to provide support in five key areas:

1. Energy Assessments
2. Energy Management Support
3. AMR (Automated Meter Reading) Roll-Out
4. Loan Scheme Support (LED, Solar PV, Batteries)
5. Climate Adaptation Planning

If your school would like to find out more about any of these areas please get in touch with us to begin the process [Action on Carbon and Energy in Schools \(ACES\)](#)



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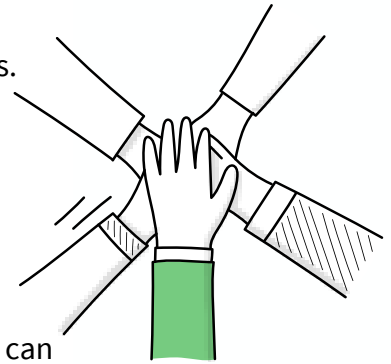
Governor Services Training

Governor Services Training programmes

Thank you to all who attended our Spring training programme, free events and briefings. We have enjoyed engaging with you all. We hope you found the training useful in your work with your schools.

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

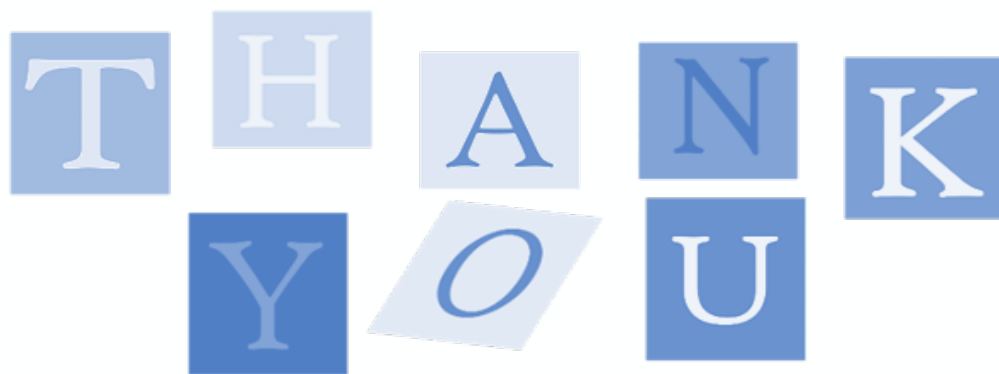
Please check if your board has subscribed to the Governor Services training package before booking. Governors at schools that subscribe can register for as much training as you like at no additional cost.

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 24th April 2026.

With best wishes

The Oxfordshire Governor Services Team -

Jeremy, Helen and Ruth

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