



Welcome to our governance news update

With Key Stage 2 SATs taking place next week and the summer exam season beginning, we know this is a particularly busy and demanding time for schools. Please do take a moment to look at the guidance on page 3, which highlights governors' monitoring responsibilities and offers practical suggestions on how you can best support your school during this period. It has been a relatively quiet week in terms of national updates, but there are a few Oxfordshire-specific updates we would like to share with you.

Contact us

For **governance** queries
email: governorservices@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Phone: 0330 0249 046

For **clerking** queries

email: clerking.service@oxfordshire.gov.uk



Tricia Bunn

Service Manager for School
Effectiveness & Governance



Jeremy Masson

Senior Strategic Advisor for
Schools & Governance



Helen Tate

Governor Support Officer



Ruth Pangu

Clerk to Governors
Team Lead

Oxfordshire Updates

Further update on Schools and Governance in Oxfordshire

We are delighted to welcome **Tricia Bunn** as the new permanent **Service Manager for Schools and Governance** at Oxfordshire County Council. Tricia will lead school improvement, governance and business support, working with schools, governors, trusts and partners to provide assurance, support and challenge across the system in order to secure strong governance, high-quality provision and improved outcomes for children and young people. Tricia joins us from Birmingham City Council's School Improvement service and brings wide experience across local authority and academy contexts, including headship and service as a Chair of Governors and IEB member. She is particularly committed to building strong, trusting relationships and is looking forward to working collaboratively with schools and partners across Oxfordshire.

We would like to thank **Jeremy Masson** who has been holding this space as the interim Service Manager for Schools & Governance since January. We are delighted to share that Jeremy will be staying with us for a longer period, moving into the role of **Senior Strategic Advisor for Schools & Governance**. He will work closely with Tricia to continue the work he has started on the permanent structures for this service area, leading further recruitment and induction of new colleagues alongside developing new systems and structures to ensure the new permanent model's future success.

Jeremy will also hold some high-level casework in the Schools & Governance team where there are statutory interventions and complex cases, providing advice, support and leadership capacity both to the service area and more widely to the Assistant Directors.



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News Update

Key Stage 2 (KS2) SATS responsibilities

As per the KS2 Assessment and Reporting Arrangements (ARA) which sets out the statutory requirements for key stage 2 assessment and reporting:

4.4 Governing bodies' responsibilities

Governing bodies of maintained schools and proprietors of participating independent schools must carry out their functions to ensure that the KS2 national curriculum assessments are administered in their schools according to this ARA.

[2026 key stage 2 assessment and reporting arrangements - GOV.UK](#)

This could include:

- School visit beforehand to check test materials have been stored correctly and that access arrangements have been applied for.
- School visits during the test week to check:
 - the tests are administered properly, in line with the timetable
 - the process for reporting any issue is known.



You may also be asked to be an **independent observer** by your Headteacher.

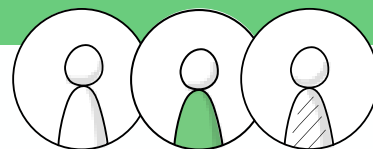
GovernorHub Knowledge has produced guidance setting out appropriate questions governors may wish to consider as part of their oversight role:

[Key Stage 2 SATs: governors' role | GovernorHub](#)

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News Update



Clerk to Governors – recruitment now open

Oxfordshire County Council Clerking Service operates as part of the Local Authority's Governance Services support to schools. These are highly respected services with governance professionals being sought by both LA maintained schools and Academies.

All new governance professionals are supported through an initial training programme with further training opportunities and regular briefings to ensure you develop the knowledge and skills to succeed in the role long term.

More information and how to apply can be found on the [HERE](#) page

Government recognises ongoing improvements to services for Oxfordshire's SEND children



Oxfordshire County Council has received news that the government has lifted the improvement notice for services for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) issued following a local area partnership inspection by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission in 2023.

The secretary of state noted that Oxfordshire's local area partnership (LAP) has strengthened how the views of children and young people with SEND, as well as parents and carers, are gathered and used in strategic planning.

There have been improvements in communication and information sharing across the partnership, including monitoring the impact of the partnership's actions and enhanced timeliness of education and health care plans (EHCPs).

Here is the link to the full press release: [Government recognises ongoing improvements to services for Oxfordshire's SEND children](#)

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News Update

Expansion of Virtual School Statutory Duties from September 2026

An online briefing for Designated Teachers, DSLs and school leaders took place on Thursday 23 April. The session updated colleagues on the expansion of the Virtual School's statutory duties from September 2026, what the DfE and Ofsted will expect of schools and settings, and the support available from Oxfordshire Virtual School.

[One page summary of the key messages](#)

[Presentation slides \(pdf, 1mb\)](#)

[Video recording of the session](#)

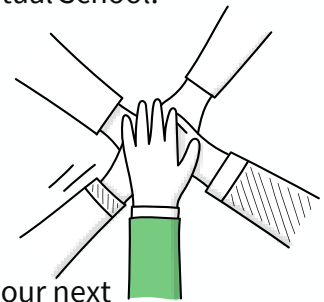
This is essential information for school leaders and governors.

Please ensure it is shared with relevant colleagues and included in your next leadership or governor meeting agenda.

For further information or support, contact Oxfordshire Virtual School at virtuelschool@oxfordshire.gov.uk or visit the [the Virtual School page](#)

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to vulnerable children and young people.

Clare Pike
Head of the Virtual School
Oxfordshire



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National Updates

Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act becomes law

The government has passed its landmark Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act, which embeds key education priorities into law. The Act covers several areas across education and social care, focused on:

- tackling barriers to education
- increasing alignment in the school system
- strengthening collaboration between schools and partner agencies
- improving child safety and wellbeing measures
- supporting care leavers



[Families to save up to £1,000 as children's reforms become law - GOV.UK](#)

[Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026 becomes law | GovernorHub](#)

Eco-Schools Green Flag application window now open

The Eco-Schools Green Flag application window is officially open

As a thank you for your environmental efforts, they are once again partnering with **JUST ONE Tree** to **plant one tree for every Green Flag awarded** this year.



Eco Schools is a great scheme which can support your school in meeting its climate action plan expectations [Home - Eco Schools](#)

Contact us

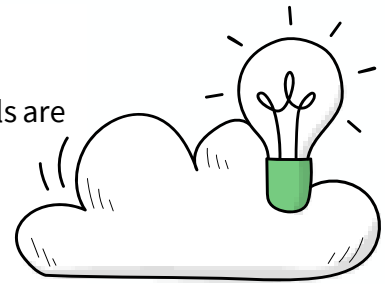
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Governor Services Training

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](#)

Charging for training – a reminder

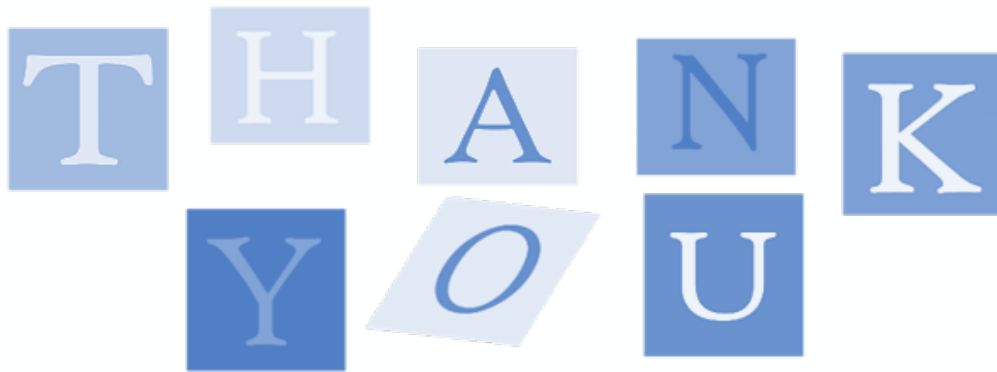
Please check if your board has subscribed to the Governor Services training package before booking. Governors at schools that subscribe can register for as much training as you like at no additional cost.

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 Friday 22nd May 2026.

With best wishes

The Oxfordshire Governor Services Team -

Trícia, Jeremy, Helen and Ruth

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