

Welcome to our governance news update

As we reach the end of another academic year, we wanted to take a moment to thank all governors and trustees across Oxfordshire for the commitment, challenge and support you provide to your schools and settings. Your willingness to give your time, expertise and energy to this work makes a real difference to school communities across the county.

Looking ahead, September marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter with the introduction of our Regional Education Partner (REP) team. The REPs will work closely with schools and governing boards, helping us build even stronger relationships across the county and ensuring that schools can access timely challenge, support and intelligence. Alongside this, we are continuing to bring our Schools and Governance functions closer together so that schools and governors experience a more joined-up service, recognising that effective school improvement and effective governance go hand in hand.

For now, we hope you have an opportunity over the summer to rest, recharge and spend time with family and friends. Thank you once again for everything you do in service of Oxfordshire's children and young people.



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Contact us

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News Update

Governor Updates

Governor Development and Compliance Lead

We are delighted to welcome Rachel Caseby as our new Governor Development and Compliance Lead. Rachel is already a familiar face to our governors, having supported governance in Oxfordshire for a number of years. We are delighted that she is now becoming a permanent member of the team here at OCC. Her experience, expertise and commitment to supporting governors make her a tremendous asset to both our service and the wider Oxfordshire governance community.

Sharing images

Following the information shared in our June Governor Briefing regarding guidance issued to schools, the National Crime Agency (NCA) and the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) have now published guidance for parents on sharing images of children online. Governors may wish to ensure schools are aware of the guidance and consider signposting parents to it through newsletters and other communication channels. The parental guidance can be accessed [here](#).

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Key Stage 2 Test Results Publication Delayed

You may already be aware that the release of Key Stage 2 assessment data has been delayed until Thursday.

While this is primarily an operational issue, governors will recognise the significance of this information for schools, particularly for headteachers and Year 6 staff who have worked hard throughout the year and are awaiting the outcomes. Delays to national data releases can create additional uncertainty and frustration at an already demanding point in the school year. Governors may wish to be mindful of the potential impact on staff wellbeing and ensure that any discussions around outcomes continue to reflect the wider context in which schools are operating.

Teacher and Leader Pay Update

The Government has confirmed a two-year teacher pay settlement, with a 3.5% pay award from September 2026 followed by a 3% increase in September 2027. Schools will receive additional funding towards the cost, although governing boards should note that schools will still be expected to meet the first 1% of each award from existing budgets. Governors may wish to consider the implications of these changes as part of budget and workforce planning for the coming academic year.

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Safeguarding Audit 2026–27

Governors are reminded that the annual safeguarding audit will be available through 'Evaluate My School' from 13th July 2026. Governing boards may wish to note that Section 1 – Safeguarding Leadership and Management is expected to be completed by 11th September 2026. Schools may find it helpful to complete this section before the end of the summer term where possible, particularly where key safeguarding leaders and governors are available. The remaining sections of the audit can then be completed during the autumn term, with 'Evaluate My School' currently scheduled to close on 27th November 2026.

Department for Education Consultations

Governors may wish to be aware of two current Department for Education consultations which may be of interest:

[Information Sharing Duty – Statutory Guidance](#)

The DfE is seeking views on draft statutory guidance supporting the new Information Sharing Duty introduced through the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act. The guidance aims to support more consistent and effective information sharing between agencies and organisations working with children and families. The consultation closes on **14th July 2026**

[Improving Help and Child Protection: Revised Framework](#)

The DfE is also consulting on proposed updates to Working Together to Safeguard Children. The proposals include strengthening family help, improving multi-agency safeguarding arrangements and supporting more effective decision-making across safeguarding partners. The consultation closes on **4th September 2026**.

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