

Governor Training Programme

Autumn Term 2026

The Autumn Term 2026 Training Programme brings together the training available for governors this term. It is designed to support new governors, chairs, lead governors and governing boards in fulfilling their core functions:

- clarifying vision, ethos and strategic direction,
- holding leaders to account, and
- ensuring financial probity.

Sessions also support boards with key compliance, safeguarding, health and safety, inclusion, finance, wellbeing and inspection-related responsibilities.

Governors are encouraged to plan attendance across the term according to their role, level of experience, committee or lead responsibilities and board priorities. Succession planning should also inform your training plans to ensure continuity during times of change.

NOTE: If your school subscribes to the governor training package, ***any governor from your board may attend any of the sessions without any additional charge***. If your school does not subscribe, we offer a pay as you use service and more information can be found here: [Governor training | Oxfordshire Schools](#)

Contact us

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Understanding the Pathways

The training programme is organised into **three pathways** to help governors select training that matches their experience, responsibilities and development needs. Governors do not need to follow only one pathway; they may choose sessions from across the programme according to their role, board priorities and interests.

Pathway	What it means
Explore Pathway	For new governors and governors wanting to refresh their knowledge. These sessions introduce essential governance responsibilities and support governors to build confidence in understanding their role.
Develop Pathway	For governors exploring the role in greater depth. These sessions support governors who are developing specialist knowledge, taking on link governor responsibilities or strengthening their contribution to board monitoring and discussion.
Lead Pathway	For governors leading either the board or a committee. These sessions support chairs, vice-chairs, committee chairs and governors undertaking formal leadership or panel responsibilities. They are also an excellent way of developing governor knowledge and confidence to support board succession planning.

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Session & Booking Link	Date & Time	Pathway	Brief Outline
Safeguarding Children Level 2 Book here	Tue 22.09.26 18:30-20:30	Explore	This course, delivered by the Education Safeguarding Advisory Team, provides governors with an explanation of their safeguarding duties, summarises the latest statutory requirements and supports the promotion and monitoring of safeguarding in schools. This is a Level 2 Safeguarding course- recommended for all board members. It should be updated at least every three years.
The Appraisal Process Book here	Thu 24.09.26 19:00-20:30	Lead	Governors will consider the importance of the annual performance management process for teachers and headteachers as a lever for improving the quality of education in schools. This session will consider the responsibilities of: • The board as a whole • The Appraisal panel or subgroup It will also consider some of the practical aspects of the headteacher appraisal process. This course is recommended for all governors involved in appraisal of the headteacher or executive leader.

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Successful Chairing Book here	Mon 28.09.26 19:00–20:00	Lead	This reflective course is useful for new Chairs, experienced Chairs wanting a refresher session. It is also useful for those leading other aspects of the board, or aspiring to be leaders. It will consider: • The role of the Chair • How the Chair can develop effective skills, knowledge and understanding • Planning the board's work • Developing productive relationships Supporting the board to improve.
NEW An Introduction to SEND Book here	Tue 29.09.26 19:00–20:15	Explore	This session introduces governors to their responsibilities for special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and considers: • The legal duties • Strategic oversight and assurance • Challenge • Championing inclusion

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			It frames SEND as a rising-demand system issue, with national and Oxfordshire data showing growing need particularly in primary schools for speech, language and communication support. It connects SEND reform to practical governance: understanding provision, scrutinising data and spending, asking the right questions and ensuring inclusive support.
Induction Part 1 Book here	Thu 01.10.26 19:00–20:30	Explore	This course is essential for all new governors and is also a great refresher course for those who have been involved in governance for longer. <i>To complete the induction training, Part 1 and Part 2 must be completed.</i> Among other things, this course will add to your knowledge and confidence about: • The types of school you may govern • The types of governors on your board • Who sits around your board table • How governance works in practice.
NEW Live Well Book here	Tue 06.10.26 19:00–20:30	Lead	In this session, we will consider what effective governance looks like in relation to pupil wellbeing and explore how governors can monitor progress, challenge appropriately and support continuous improvement.

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The Safeguarding Lead Governor L3 Book here	Wed 07.10.26 18:30–20:30	Develop	The safeguarding governor needs to have a good awareness of the safeguarding systems in school and in the wider community if they are to monitor this area effectively for the board. This training session, delivered by the Education Safeguarding Advisory team, will consider: • The role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) in school • The LADO process • School record keeping and chronologies • Referral processes: what happens next? • The governor role • Current Oxfordshire safeguarding topics <i>This is a Level 3 Safeguarding course- recommended for the safeguarding governor and other governors interested in this role. It should be updated at least every two years</i>
Effective Use of the Pupil Premium Book here	Thu 08.10.26 19:00–20:30	Develop	This course, delivered by OXSIT (Oxfordshire School Inclusion Team), will develop governors' understanding of the effective use of the pupil premium grant so that pupil outcomes can be enhanced. It will support governors to develop effective strategies to monitor and evaluate impact in this area and will explain the role of the board in the accountability of this grant.

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Governor Monitoring Book here	Mon 12.10.26 19:00–20:15	Explore	Monitoring is an important aspect of the board's work, and this course will consider: • The purpose of monitoring in the work of the board • The range and usefulness of monitoring evidence available to boards • Strategic questioning • The need for a planned, strategic approach to governor monitoring.
Exclusions and Suspensions: information for governing boards Book here	Tue 13.10.26 19:00–20:30	Explore	This course, delivered by the Exclusion Reintegration Team , is useful for all governors. It aims to: • Consider the role of the board in relation to pupil suspensions and exclusions • Clarify the Department for Education's latest guidance on this topic • Explore the importance of governor rigour in considering exclusions at the governor panel stage with the ultimate aim of ensuring robust and fair processes are in place.
The SEND Lead Governor Book here	Wed 14.10.26 19:00–20:30	Develop	This course, delivered by the Oxfordshire School Inclusion Team (OXSiT), is relevant for all SEND governors new to the role or wanting a refresher course. It will cover: • The legal requirements around SEND provision

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			- The role of the SEN coordinator (SENCO) - Monitoring and evaluating SEN practice as governors - The inclusive curriculum
Sustainable Governance Book here	Mon 19.10.26 19:00–20:00	Develop	This briefing will highlight your responsibilities based on the DfE's <i>Sustainability and Climate Strategy</i> . It will cover: - The school's sustainability responsibilities - The role of the board - Practical steps you can take to support your school.
NEW Vision and Strategic Direction Book Here	Wed 21.10.26 19:00–20:30	Lead	This session will explore one of the board's core functions, to <i>ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction</i> , and so help governors understand their role in shaping the future direction of their school. Governors will consider how an effective vision influences all aspects of their work, and will consider how boards can ensure their vision is visible in practice. They will also consider their strategic direction and how this allows the school to be forward looking, relevant and affordable in a changing education landscape.

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Induction Part 2 Book here	Thu 22.10.26 19:00–20:30	Explore	This course is essential for all new governors and is also a great refresher course for those who have been involved in governance for longer. <i>To complete the training, Induction A and Induction B must be completed.</i> Among other things, this course will add to your knowledge and confidence about: • The purpose of the board • The core functions of the board • Working strategically • The school improvement cycle.
Preparing for Ofsted Book here	Fri 23.10.26 09:00–10:30	Explore	This course provides an overview for governors of the updated Ofsted Education Inspection Framework, 2025. It aims to: • Provide an overview of the updated inspection process and its focus areas • Support understanding of the governors' roles and responsibilities • Consider practical steps to help feel prepared • Allow time for reflection on you own school's position.

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NEW Virtual School Briefing Book here	Mon 02.11.26 18:00–19:00	Develop	This briefing sessions is designed to equip governors with a clear understanding of their statutory responsibilities for care-experienced children and those with a social worker. It aims to build confidence in governance, clarify the role of the Oxfordshire Virtual School, and empower governors to challenge and support senior leaders in improving outcomes for vulnerable children.
Safer Recruitment Book here	Tue 03.11.26 18:00–21:00	Lead	This course provides training for governors if they wish to be involved in school recruitment or want to know more about recruiting in terms of the safeguarding of children. It covers all aspects of the recruitment process and is run by the Education Safeguarding Advisory Team. Due to the nature of this course, it contains upsetting information and firmly places safer recruitment in the context of the safeguarding of children. <i>The training is valid for five years from completion and attendees must join the training promptly. Attendees will be asked to complete a brief assessment after the session to receive the certificate.</i>

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Holding the School to Account Book here	Wed 04.11.26 19:00–20:00	Develop	One of the core functions of governance is to hold the headteacher to account for the quality of educational in the school. Some governors may find this function difficult, particularly when the board also has a supportive role. This course is designed to provide some time to consider the issues around this and to better understand the board's role. This training will look at: • The board's role: providing challenge and support • Monitoring key performance indicators: what and how? • Asking the right questions • Understanding the impact of the board.
Budget construction and monitoring Book here	Tue 10.11.26 19:00–20:30	Explore	This course will provide you with a sound introduction to school finances and budgeting including information about: • Funding streams • Essential considerations when planning the budget • Benchmarking sources • Monitoring • The evaluation of spending to ensure pupil impact and value for money.

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Early Years Governance Book here	Thu 12.11.26 19:00–20:30	Develop	This training, delivered by the Early Years Team, will highlight the distinct nature of this important part of our schools, and will look at: • The characteristics of effective teaching and learning in the early years • Areas of learning and development and their assessment • What good practice looks like in nursery and reception classes • The governors' role.
Induction Part 1 Book here	Sat 14.11.26 09:30–11:00	Explore	This course is essential for all new governors and is also a great refresher course for those who have been involved in governance for longer. <i>To complete the induction training, Part 1 and Part 2 must be completed.</i> Among other things, this course will add to your knowledge and confidence about: • The types of school you may govern • The types of governors on your board • Who sits around your board table • How governance works in practice.

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The Appraisal Process Book here	Mon 16.11.26 19:00–20:30	Lead	Governors will consider the importance of the annual appraisal process for teachers and headteachers as a lever for improving the quality of education in schools. This session will consider the responsibilities of: • The board as a whole • The Appraisal panel or subgroup It will also consider some of the practical aspects of the headteacher appraisal process. <i>This course is recommended for all governors involved in appraisal of the headteacher or executive leader.</i>
NEW School Visits Book here	Wed 18.11.26 19:00–20:00	Develop	Governor visits are an important part of effective governance, helping governors to understand the school's strengths, priorities and challenges and allowing them to experience the culture of the school. This session will cover: • The purpose and value of governor visits • Planning and conducting effective visits • Appropriate activities linked to governing board priorities and compliance

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			• Professional conduct and confidentiality • Recording and reporting visit outcomes The session will provide practical guidance and tools to help governors undertake visits confidently and effectively.
NEW Attendance and the board's role Book here	Thu 19.11.26 19:00–20:30	Develop	This session will provide the opportunity for governors to reflect on a key government focus for all schools: attendance. It will cover: • Why attendance and why now? • The links between attendance and other areas of governor responsibility • Sources of external and internal information • Strategic questioning and the governor assurance role
Affordable Schools Book here	Mon 23.11.26 19:00–20:30	Develop	More and more schools are finding balancing school budgets increasingly challenging and governors have a strategic role in ensuring that school finances are managed effectively and are providing value for money. This course is designed to provide maintained governors with the knowledge and skills to: • Understand how your school is funded and how this funding is allocated within the school budget

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			- Have a greater understanding of the financial pressures that your school could be facing. Some examples are: falling pupil numbers; staffing costs; curriculum priorities; increasing numbers of pupils with additional needs; personnel issues; parental concerns, and issues specific to your school - Work with the headteacher and senior leadership team to find solutions to these issues. There will be opportunities for questions and discussion throughout the session.
Inclusion and Vulnerability Book here	Thu 26.11.26 19:00–20:30	Develop	This training session will increase governor understanding around what is meant by the term 'inclusion', its importance in schools and the actions Boards can take to promote and evaluate inclusion within their own school communities. The training will help governors to understand: - Some of the features of an inclusive school - Which groups have protected characteristics in relation to inclusion in schools - The Board's responsibility for inclusion - What information could be monitored to support any board judgement about inclusion - Where to go for support and further information

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Induction Part 2 Book here	Sat 28.11.26 09:30–11:00	Explore	This course is essential for all new governors and is also a great refresher course for those who have been involved in governance for longer. <i>To complete the training, Induction A and Induction B must be completed.</i> Among other things, this course will add to your knowledge and confidence about: • The purpose of the board • The core functions of the board • Working strategically • The school improvement cycle. •
Early Years Finance Book here	Mon 30.11.26 19:00–20:00	Develop	This training is aimed at governors of Maintained Nursery Schools and Maintained Primary Schools with reception or nursery classes and will introduce governors to Early Years Finance. It will help governors develop an understanding of Early Years funding and their role in ensuring its effective allocation and use.

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Health and Safety: the role of the board Book here	Wed 02.12.26 19:00–20:30	Explore	This course will support governors in understanding the board’s role in the health and safety of their school. It will consider the legal duties of the board and the areas covered by this legislation; policy and risk assessment requirements; the distinction between the leadership’s role and the role of the board; practical suggestions around monitoring this area and signposting to available support.
School Staff Wellbeing NEW Book here	Thu 03.12.26 19:00-20:00	Lead	School Governors have an important strategic responsibility for wellbeing, with their role being to ensure that the school promotes and protects the wellbeing of both pupils and staff as part of effective governance. This session looks at the following: • Understanding importance of wellbeing/resilience and why it matters • How to support the wellbeing of your employees • Developing workload and wellbeing strategies • Embedding a wellbeing culture within the school

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