



GOVERNANCE

‘Iron sharpens iron, and one person sharpens the wits of another’ (Proverbs 27:17)

The role that governors and trustees have is an instrumental part of the functioning of an effective Church school. Governing boards work together to develop a vision and strategy for their school or trust. They oversee the financial performance of the organisation and make sure its money is well spent. Governing boards hold the school and trust leaders to account to ensure that every pupil has the best possible education. Sessions are led by experienced advisers who are either serving SIAMS or Ofsted inspectors, as well as governors and trustees.

Governors are all volunteers and give freely of their time and expertise. The ODBE team has crafted a comprehensive suite of training for governors and trustees. Due to the geographical make-up of the Diocese of Oxford, all our governance training is held virtually. The Introduction to Governance session is a must for any new governor or trustee at a Church school and is free of charge.

Additional governance training covers the roles and responsibilities that governing boards have through the lens of being a Church school or academy. From SIAMS to the role of governors in monitoring the Christian vision, our training is tailored to the needs of the school communities and range of experience on a governing board.

Governance+

This offer aims to provide ongoing support to governors of Church schools across a range of key issues.

Signing up to our **Governance+** will give members of your governing board unlimited access to our great provision for governor training.

Governance+ costs **£200p.a.** Contact tracy.makin@oxford.anglican.org to sign up.

Essential for all governors and trustees			
An Introduction to Governance in Church Schools and Trusts	Setting out the specific requirements of governing in a Church of England school or trust. All governors, directors, clerks and governance professionals are encouraged to attend this session, and it is a requirement of appointment or re-appointment as a Foundation Governor/Trustee by ODBE.	FREE to all governors, directors, clerks and governance professionals in Church schools in the Diocese of Oxford <i>Whilst this session is free to all schools across the Diocese, booking is essential.</i>	Thursday 17 September 7-8.30pm Online Book here
			Wednesday 11 November 6-7.30pm Online Book here
			Monday 11 January 2027 12-1.30pm Online Book here
			Monday 1 March 6-7.30pm Online Book here
			Tuesday 11 May 7-8.30pm Online Book here
			Thursday 1 July 6-7.30pm Online Book here

Autumn 2026			
Thursday 1 October 7 – 8 pm Online Book here	Governors Guide to SIAMS	Governance+ Free SLA: £45 (+VAT) for up to 3 governors Non-SLA: £65 (+VAT) for up to 3 governors	Covering everything you need to know about SIAMS as a governor and helping you support your school to achieve a successful outcome. Learn about the purpose and process of the inspection and consider the role of governors in ensuring your Church school lives out its vision and flourishes.
Monday 16 November 7 – 8pm Online Book here	Governors Guide to Effective Monitoring in a Church School	Governance+ Free SLA: £45 (+VAT) for up to 3 governors Non-SLA: £65 (+VAT) for up to 3 governors	Knowing what to measure and monitor is an essential part of working as an effective governing board. This session provides guidance and support to develop and improve your practice in readiness for both SIAMS and Ofsted inspection. We will share models of best practice.
Tuesday 24 November 7-8pm Online Book here	Managing Parental Complaints Well - A Practical Guide for Schools	Governance+ Free Training+ Free SLA: £25 (+VAT) Non-SLA: £45 (+VAT) per person	Parental complaints are an inevitable part of school life, but handled well, they can strengthen relationships and improve practice. Led by Vicky Hatton a Partner at Browne Jacobson LLP this engaging and practical session takes attendees on the full complaints journey, from understanding the legal and regulatory framework and the strategic role of governors and trustees, through the art of de-escalation and effective formal investigation, to managing panel hearings and dealing with vexatious or unreasonable behaviour with confidence. The session also addresses the growing challenge of AI-generated and AI-enhanced complaints.
Tuesday 8 December 7 – 8pm Online Book here	Governors Guide to RE & Worldviews	Governance+ Free SLA: £45 (+VAT) for up to 3 governors Non-SLA: £65 (+VAT) for up to 3 governors	An opportunity for governors to consider their responsibilities for the curriculum, monitoring and evaluation of Religious Education (RE) and worldviews including the current requirements of RE syllabuses.

Spring 2027			
Tuesday 19 January 7 – 8pm Online Book here	Governors Guide to Collective Worship and Spiritual Flourishing	Governance+ Free SLA: £45 (+VAT) for up to 3 governors Non-SLA: £65 (+VAT) for up to 3 governors	To support governors in understanding what the law expects collective worship to contain and how acts of worship should reflect the school's Christian character. We will explore what spiritual flourishing could look like in Church schools.
Monday 8 February 7-8pm Online Book here	Governors Guide to Justice and Courageous Advocacy	Governance+ Free SLA: £45 (+VAT) for up to 3 governors Non-SLA: £65 (+VAT) for up to 3 governors	Empower governors to champion justice and courageous advocacy at the heart of your school's Christian vision. Grounded in current thinking and effective practice this inspiring session explores what it truly means for schools to be communities where injustice is challenged and every voice is heard.
Thursday 18 March 7 – 8pm Online Book here	Governors Guide to SIAMS	Governance+ Free SLA: £45 (+VAT) for up to 3 governors Non-SLA: £65 (+VAT) for up to 3 governors	Covering everything you need to know about SIAMS as a governor and helping you support your school to achieve a successful outcome. Learn about the purpose and process of the inspection and consider the role of governors in ensuring your Church school lives out its vision and flourishes.

Summer 2027			
Tuesday 20 April 7 – 8pm Online Book here	Guide to Effective Monitoring in a Church School	Governance+ Free SLA: £45 (+VAT) for up to 3 governors Non-SLA: £65 (+VAT) for up to 3 governors	Knowing what to measure and monitor is an essential part of working as an effective governing board. We will provide guidance and support to develop and improve your practice in readiness for both SIAMS and Ofsted inspections.
Wednesday 28 April 7 – 8pm Online Book here	School Governance, Race Equality and Anti-racism	Governance+ Free SLA: £45 (+VAT) for up to 3 governors Non-SLA: £65 (+VAT) for up to 3 governors	With an emphasis on practical application we will explore what racism is and how it shows up in education, introduce key terminology to support shared understanding, and consider what anti-racist governance looks like in practice.
Thursday 13 May 7 – 8 pm Online Book here	Governors Guide to RE & Worldviews	Governance+ Free SLA: £45 (+VAT) for up to 3 governors Non-SLA: £65 (+VAT) for up to 3 governors	An opportunity to consider governors' responsibilities for the curriculum, monitoring and evaluation of Religious Education (RE) including the current requirements of RE syllabuses.
Wednesday 9 June 7 – 8pm Online Book here	Guide to Collective Worship and Spiritual Flourishing	Governance+ Free SLA: £45 (+VAT) for up to 3 governors Non-SLA: £65 (+VAT) for up to 3 governors	To support governors in understanding what the law expects collective worship to contain and how acts of worship should reflect the school's Christian character. We will explore what spiritual flourishing could look like in Church schools.

Online Resources

Video resources available free of charge from September 2026 to those signed up to the SLA

Guide to Headteacher Appraisal

We recommend that all governors who conduct the headteacher appraisal have received this training before they engage in this vital part of the governance role.

Guide to Recruiting a new Headteacher to a Church school

A session to accompany the ODBE Headteacher Recruitment Handbook available on our website. This explores the process of recruiting a new Headteacher from start to finish. Sharing best practice and experience of supporting countless headteacher appointment panels.

School Admission Arrangements

How to ensure your admission arrangements are compliant with statutory guidance and ODBE policy.



“ The session has increased my confidence as a governor. Everything was incredibly well explained and the facilitators were hugely knowledgeable. ”