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GOVERNOR TRAINING PROGRAMME 2026-27

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To book your training:
email: events@oneeducation.co.uk
or visit the One Education website: www.oneeducation.co.uk/training-courses-conferences

FOREWORD

One Education Governor Support recognises the importance of high-quality training to help governors and trustees keep up with current standards and meet the changing demands of the educational landscape.

Our experts have developed a programme of training and CPD to support strong and effective governance. This brochure contains all the details of training on offer and the timetable for the current academic year.

These sessions will provide greater insight into the key functions of governing boards, governors' roles and responsibilities, plus emerging topics and trends. All training is linked to the expectations set out by the latest guidance and legislation.

The programme is delivered virtually, with plenty of opportunities for interaction. On completion, attendees will receive training certificates that can be used to evidence governor self-development.



Rob Merino

Head of Governance and Compliance
One Education

Book Your place

Governors will need to register in advance for each session. To book your place, please use this link to our website:

www.oneeducation.co.uk/training-courses-conferences

Or get in touch.

events@oneeducation.co.uk

If you are unable to attend, most sessions will be recorded and available to view online. Links can be accessed by contacting the above email.

Cost

The training programme is free for all One Governor and training subscribers. Alternatively, you can purchase individual sessions for a more personalised learning experience. Prices are listed on our website.

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MEET YOUR INSTRUCTORS

One Education has a team of highly qualified and experienced professionals, brought together by our shared passion for putting children first. The scope of governance responsibilities is broad and so drawing on a wide range of specialisms, our experts will equip you with the knowledge and skills you need to excel in governance and make a meaningful impact in your role.

Mary Arnold

School Improvement Consultant

Mary is a former school leader, Ofsted inspector, and school effectiveness officer for Manchester. Mary now works as an independent consultant across the North West and further afield. She has been a Quality Assurance Professional for several years and has been commissioned as an external adviser for HTPM in over 30 schools. Mary is also the KS2 Writing Moderation Manager for Manchester. She has extensive experience of governance and has been the Chair of governing boards and Interim Executive Boards of failing schools. She currently serves as Chair of the Standards Committee for a federation of two schools in inner-city Manchester.

Ruth Dolan

Governance Development Consultant

Ruth is a longstanding Chair of governors, who has also been commissioned by the DfE, local authorities and individual trusts to support governing boards including Interim Executive Boards of failing schools. She works with trusts to review effectiveness and impact and to develop bespoke governance arrangements. Previously a DfE National Leader of Governance, Ruth is a Training and Development Associate with One Education.

Rob Merino

Head of Governance and Compliance

Before joining One Education, Rob had an extensive career in local government service management and delivery, followed by a number of years as a programme and change management professional. He has been Head of Governance and Compliance since 2013 providing advice, guidance, and support to headteachers and chairs across the region and was formerly part of the advisory All Party Parliamentary Group on governance. Rob has managed the successful delivery of a new free school through application and pre-opening stages and provides advice and guidance on academisation.

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Jess Lane

Head of Education Welfare & Safeguarding

Jess leads the team of Education Welfare and Safeguarding advisers, ensuring they deliver the best service to schools, local authorities and multi-academy trusts, putting the best outcomes for children at the centre of their approach.

Jess has experience working in both the public and private sector to improve safeguarding outcomes and attendance of children and young people, with many years' experience as a Designated Safeguarding Lead and Education Welfare & Safeguarding adviser.

Dan Smith

Head of IT

Dan has over 20 years' experience in ICT including internal and external support, delivering high standard IT and project delivery to customers. He leads the One Education ICT service providing advice, guidance and IT solutions to schools and academy trusts.

Petra Pratt

Head of School Finance

Petra has many years' experience and extensive knowledge of all aspects of education finance and consultancy in primary, secondary, special, academies and independent schools. She holds a Certificate in School Business Management, Certificate in Finance Reporting for Academies, and has expert knowledge of FMS6, SIMS, and Access Education software packages.

Clare Barber

Senior HR Business Partner

Clare is IPD qualified and has over 20 years' experience working in education and local government. She has designed and delivered training in many areas and is a Mental Health First Aid England Instructor. As a Foundation Governor, Clare has a rich understanding of school leadership and governance.

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AUTUMN TERM 2026

GOV 01

Are You Ready for the Autumn Term?

The termly briefing is for all governors and trustees preparing for governance this term, but will be especially useful to Chairs of Governors and Chairs of Committees. Explore the latest developments in governance, best practice and policy information from the DfE, plus the focus for governor challenge and support in the autumn term.

Course Instructors: Mary Arnold & Rob Merino

Date: Wednesday 23 September 2026

Time: 6.00 - 8.00 pm

GOV 02

Induction Part 1 - Academy Governance

Explore the key information and frameworks set out in the **DfE Academy trust governance guide** and the Academy trust handbook to help you to understand your key roles and responsibilities as you begin your journey as a trustee or local academy governor. This session is part of a wider training programme, which includes a mix of individual off-line learning challenges and two interactive online sessions.

Course Instructors: Ruth Dolan & Rob Merino

Date: Wednesday 30 September 2026

Time: 6.00 - 8.30 pm



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GOV 03

Induction Part 1 - Maintained School Governance

Explore the key information and frameworks set out in the **DfE Maintained school governance guide** to help you to understand your key roles and responsibilities as you begin your journey as school governor. This session is part of a wider training programme, which includes a mix of individual off-line learning challenges and two interactive online sessions.

Course Instructors: Ruth Dolan & Rob Merino
Date: Thursday 1 October 2026
Time: 6.00 - 8.30 pm

GOV 04

Induction Part 2 - Becoming an Effective Governor

Part 2 of our induction programme builds upon prior learning to help you put knowledge into practice on your journey towards effective governance. Discover guidance and top-tips to help you prepare for meetings, participate in governor visits, take on a Link Governor role, and more. Plus, we will signpost to a range of sources for ongoing support. This session is also useful as a stand-alone refresher for experienced governors.

Course Instructors: Ruth Dolan & Rob Merino
Date: Wednesday 7 October 2026
Time: 6.00 - 8.30 pm

GOV 05

Delivering effective scrutiny and challenge

Governors need to hold school leaders to account by gathering and triangulating information from various sources. This briefing explores the importance of establishing a clear monitoring plan and ensuring appropriate governance monitoring systems and processes and shares some top tips to support delivery of effective scrutiny and challenge relative to:

- independent - including national - data
- management information reporting
- Link Governor activities
- Governor visits
- stakeholder voice
- Independent Quality Assurance

Course Instructor: Ruth Dolan
Date: Tuesday 13 October 2026
Time: 6.00 - 7.00 pm

GOV 06

Are You Ready for Ofsted?

The new Ofsted framework for inspecting schools came into force last year with a number of significant changes to how schools are inspected and finding reported. This session provides an overview of the new framework and how governors and schools should prepare for an inspection.

Course Instructor: Mary Arnold
Date: Thursday 22 October 2026
Time: 6.00 - 7.30 pm

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GOV 07

The Importance of Safeguarding and How to Manage It

This session will equip you with the knowledge to support your school in fulfilling its safeguarding responsibilities, ensuring you have an oversight of key legislation and guidance including the latest Keeping Children Safe in Education. Develop your understanding of safeguarding; the role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead; issues your school may be dealing with; and how to hold the school to account.

Course Instructor: Jess Lane

Date: Monday 2 November 2026

Time: 6.00 - 7.00 pm

GOV 08

Termly drop in

The floor is yours! Our termly forum provides a supportive and confidential space for participants to share information, best practice and top tips on any matters brought to the room by participants. From discussion on the practical application of new governance guidance through to sharing of experiences to help you to tackle a difficult matter facing your board - get support from our panel of professional practitioners and other colleagues.

Course Instructors: Ruth Dolan and Rob Merino / Amy Unwin

Date: Monday 9 November 2026

Time: 6.00 - 7.00 pm

GOV 09

Managing Academy Finance

One of the core functions for a board is ensuring the sound, proper and effective use of the academy's financial resources. This training provides an introduction to academy funding, formula funding, and the finance trustees' and governors' role in the financial management of academies.

Course Instructors: Rob Merino and Petra Pratt

Date: Wednesday 18 November 2026

Time: 6.00 - 7.00 pm

GOV 10

Being an Effective Link Governor

Effective Link Governors develop a detailed understanding of their area of focus. This briefing will signpost sources of information, guidance and advice to support your development in a Link Governor role and provides opportunity for questions and discussions. Coverage includes:

- The importance of a clear role description
- Developing relationships with the school Link leader
- Planning Link Governor activities from use of independent data to understanding school systems through desktop reviews, meetings, and governor visits
- Reporting back to the board.

Course Instructor: Ruth Dolan

Date: Wednesday 25 November 2026

Time: 6.00 - 7.00 pm

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GOV 11

Understanding Your Data to Monitor Performance – Primary Schools

This training will give an insight into how primary school governors can use external and internal data to review pupil and school performance and hold leaders to account. The training will help to develop the understanding and skills needed to review and challenge data, set targets, and offer support and challenge to school leaders in order to maximise pupil progress.

Course Instructor: Mary Arnold
Date: Thursday 3 December 2026
Time: 6.00 - 7.30 pm

GOV 12

Parent governors

Being a Parent Governor is a big ask! This briefing will help you to better understand your role and responsibilities, exploring some of the specific challenges, and providing some top tips to help you become effective.

Course Instructor: Ruth Dolan
Date: Tuesday 8 December 2026
Time: 6.00 - 7.00 pm



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SPRING TERM 2027

GOV 13

Are You Ready for the Spring Term?

The termly briefing is for all governors and trustees preparing for governance this term, but will be especially useful to Chairs of Governors and Chairs of Committees. Explore the latest developments in governance, best practice and policy information from the DfE, plus the focus for governor challenge and support in the spring term.

Course Instructors: Mary Arnold & Rob Merino

Date: Tuesday 12 January 2027

Time: 6.00 - 8.00 pm

GOV 14

Managing Behaviour and Pupil Exclusions

Governors and trustees play a key role in establishing policy and monitoring the impact of school systems and processes to support good behaviour and have specific responsibilities in reviewing pupil suspensions and exclusions. This session will use DfE Guidance to increase your understanding of the legal context and expectations, alongside sharing practical insights on being an effective governor panel member.

Course Instructor: Ruth Dolan

Date: Monday 18 January 2027

Time: 6.00 - 7.30 pm



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GOV 15

Induction Part 1 - Academy Governance

Explore the key information and frameworks set out in the **DfE Academy trust governance guide** and the Academy trust handbook to help you to understand your key roles and responsibilities as you begin your journey as a trustee or local academy governor.

This session is part of a wider training programme, which includes a mix of individual off-line learning challenges and two interactive online sessions.

Course Instructors: Ruth Dolan & Rob Merino

Date: Tuesday 26 January 2027

Time: 6.00 - 8.30 pm

GOV 16

Induction Part 1 - Maintained School Governance

Explore the key information and frameworks set out in the **DfE Maintained school governance guide** to help you to understand your key roles and responsibilities as you begin your journey as school governor. This session is part of a wider training programme, which includes a mix of individual off-line learning challenges and two interactive online sessions.

Course Instructors: Ruth Dolan & Rob Merino

Date: Wednesday 27 January 2027

Time: 6.00 - 8.30 pm

GOV 17

Induction Part 2 - Becoming an Effective Governor

Part 2 of our induction programme builds upon prior learning to help you put knowledge into practice on your journey towards effective governance. Discover guidance and top-tips to help you prepare for meetings, participate in governor visits, take on a Link Governor role, and more. Plus, we will signpost to a range of sources for ongoing support. This session is also useful as a stand-alone refresher for experienced governors.

Course Instructors: Ruth Dolan & Rob Merino

Date: Wednesday 3 February 2027

Time: 6.00 - 8.30 pm

GOV 18

Governor Visits to Monitor and Promote School Improvement

Governor visits give you the unique opportunity to experience school life through your own eyes and ears – ensuring ‘good knowledge of your school’. This training will share tips on:

- DfE expectations of the governance role
- Preparing for and participating in an effective visit
- What to do (and what not to do!) during your time at the school
- How to report back to your board.

Course Instructor: Ruth Dolan

Date: Tuesday 9 February 2027

Time: 6.00 - 7.30 pm

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GOV 19

Managing School Finance

One of the core functions for a Governing Body is ensuring the sound, proper, and effective use of the school's financial resources. This training provides an introduction to maintained school funding, formula funding, and the finance governors' role in the budget planning process and financial management of schools.

Course Instructors: Petra Pratt & Rob Merino

Date: Monday 22 February 2027

Time: 6.00 - 7.00 pm

GOV 20

Managing parental complaints

Governors play a critical role in the complaints process for schools and academies, typically when it reaches a formal and final stage. As the number of complaints continue to rise, this session gives practical advice and guidance to governors in handling a complaints panel and the considerations required in reaching decisions.

Course Instructor: Clare Barber

Date: Thursday 4 March 2027

Time: 6.00 - 7.00 pm



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GOV 21

Inclusive schools

How do you identify your vulnerable / disadvantaged pupils? How can governors effectively ensure that the needs of disadvantaged pupils are being met? What does high quality education for disadvantaged children look like? This briefing will share practical guidance and best practice to help you to deliver effective oversight of the quality of education for vulnerable children, to support inclusive education for all your pupils.

Course Instructor: Ruth Dolan

Date: Wednesday 10 March 2027

Time: 6.00 - 7.00 pm

GOV 22

Termly drop in

The floor is yours! Our termly forum provides a supportive and confidential space for participants to share information, best practice and top tips on any matters brought to the room by participants. From discussion on the practical application of new governance guidance through to sharing of experiences to help you to tackle a difficult matter facing your board - get support from our panel of professional practitioners and other colleagues.

Course Instructors: Ruth Dolan and Rob Merino / Amy Unwin

Date: Monday 15 March 2027

Time: 6.00 - 7.00 pm



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SUMMER TERM 2027

GOV 23

Are You Ready for the Summer Term?

The termly briefing is for all governors and trustees preparing for governance this term, but will be especially useful to Chairs of Governors and Chairs of Committees. Explore the latest developments in governance, best practice and policy information from the DfE, plus the focus for governor challenge and support in the summer term. This session will also include practical ways to assess the effectiveness of your governance.

Course Instructors: Mary Arnold & Rob Merino

Date: Monday 19 April 2027

Time: 6.00 - 8.00 pm

GOV 24

Being an effective governor in 2027

This practical workshop aims to provide an update on governance roles and responsibilities and to share current best practice to help you to develop the skills and approaches to make the best use of your valuable time and expertise - including top tips on

- preparing for a meeting
- making effective contributions at a committee or board meeting
- making an effective Link Governor or Visit Report
- using self-evaluation to establish an individual training and development plan

Course Instructor: Ruth Dolan

Date: Tuesday 27 April 2027

Time: 6.00 - 7.30 pm



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GOV 25

AI and Cybersecurity for Governors

Cybersecurity threats continue to grow and DfE governance guidance emphasises the importance for at least one governor on your board to be trained in cybersecurity. This briefing will raise awareness of the challenges faced by schools and the steps that need to be taken to improve cybersecurity.

Course Instructor: Dan Smith
Date: Wednesday 5 May 2027
Time: 6.00 - 7.00 pm

GOV 26

Induction Part 1 - Academy Governance

Explore the key information and frameworks set out in the **DfE Academy trust governance guide** and the Academy Trust Handbook to help you to understand your key roles and responsibilities as you begin your journey as a trustee or local academy governor. This session is part of a wider training programme, which includes a mix of individual off-line learning challenges and two interactive online sessions.

Course Instructors: Ruth Dolan & Rob Merino
Date: Wednesday 12 May 2027
Time: 6.00 - 8.30 pm

GOV 27

Induction Part 1 - Maintained School Governance

Explore the key information and frameworks set out in the new **DfE Maintained school governance guide** to help you to understand your key roles and responsibilities as you begin your journey as school governor. This session is part of a wider training programme, which includes a mix of individual off-line learning challenges and two interactive online sessions.

Course Instructors: Ruth Dolan & Rob Merino
Date: Thursday 13 May 2027
Time: 6.00 - 8.30 pm

GOV 28

Induction Part 2 - Becoming an Effective Governor

Part 2 of our induction programme builds upon prior learning to help you put knowledge into practice on your journey towards effective governance. Discover guidance and top-tips to help you prepare for meetings, participate in governor visits, take on a Link Governor Role, and more. Plus, we will signpost to a range of sources for ongoing support. This session is also useful as a stand-alone refresher for experienced governors.

Course Instructors: Ruth Dolan & Rob Merino
Date: Thursday 20 May 2027
Time: 6.00 - 8.30 pm

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GOV 29

Termly drop in

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Course Instructors: Ruth Dolan and Rob Merino / Amy Unwin

Date: Tuesday 25 May 2027

Time: 6.00 - 7.00 pm

GOV 30

Is Your School Meeting The Needs of SEND Pupils?

How can governors effectively ensure that the needs of SEND pupils are being met? What does high quality education for SEND children look like? This briefing will share practical guidance and best practice to help you to deliver effective oversight of the quality of education for vulnerable children.

Course Instructor: Ruth Dolan

Date: Monday 14 June 2027

Time: 6.00 - 7.00 pm

GOV 31

Strategic planning – your role in establishing a strategic trust/school plan

Governors are responsible for setting the vision and strategic direction for their trust / school. The DfE recommends a regular review of strategic plans and this briefing will look at all the elements required in a framework to help you understand and produce an effective plan.

Course Instructor: Ruth Dolan

Date: Thursday 24 June 2027

Time: 6.00 - 7.00 pm

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