



# Governance Training Programme - 2026/27

For your convenience, where possible our training sessions are held online, except for Safer Recruitment which is an all-day session with workbook/activity based content.

We appreciate you joining our training sessions which are delivered by S4S staff and external trainers. If you book and then find you are unable to attend, please ensure that you cancel your place via Book When as soon as you are able.

[BOOK HERE](#)

 ACADEMIES & MAINTAINED SCHOOLS

 ACADEMIES ONLY

 MAINTAINED SCHOOLS

## A GOVERNORS GUIDE TO SAFEGUARDING AND THE KCSIE UPDATES

SUITABLE FOR MAINTAINED SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES

Safeguarding children is a vital role that schools play. We want to ensure that all schools are supported effectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The course will provide delegates with an overview of the most recent Keeping Children Safe in Education legislation. The session will also equip you with questions and practical ways to help you strategically monitor safeguarding in your setting.

08/09/26 10:00am 09/09/26 10:00am 24/09/26 5:30pm 14/01/27 10:00am 08/03/27 10:00am 14/04/27 10:00am

## AN INTRODUCTION TO GOVERNANCE - MAINTAINED SCHOOLS

SUITABLE FOR GOVERNORS WITHIN MAINTAINED SCHOOLS ONLY

This session will provide new Governors with an overview of their new role and explain how Governing Boards are constituted. This course will be beneficial to new Governors and will help to equip them with the confidence and awareness to excel at their role.

05/11/26 10:00am 18/03/27 6:00pm 08/06/27 10:00am

## A GOVERNORS INTRODUCTION TO MENTAL HEALTH & EMOTIONAL WELLBEING IN SCHOOLS

SUITABLE FOR MAINTAINED SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES

This session will look at some of the key issues and responsibilities surrounding the broad topic of mental health and emotional wellbeing in children and young people, which continues to be an area of considerable focus for schools. It will help Governors to consider how they can better challenge and support their school in promoting positive mental health and why this is so important for improved whole school outcomes.

13/10/26 10:30am 04/02/27 7:00pm 21/05/27 1:00pm

 ACADEMIES & MAINTAINED SCHOOLS

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 MAINTAINED SCHOOLS

## NEW: EVERY CHILD ACHIEVING AND THRIVING – THE SCHOOLS WHITE PAPER 2026

SUITABLE FOR MAINTAINED SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES

A course designed to support Trustees and Local Governors in understanding the implications of proposed legislation for governance. The session provides an overview of the key proposals and highlights areas where governing boards will need to focus their attention and response.

26/11/26 6:00pm 25/03/27 6:00pm 24/06/27 10:00am

## NEW: THE DATA DETAIL – THE STORY BEHIND THE NUMBERS

SUITABLE FOR MAINTAINED SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES

A course designed to support Trustees and Local Governors in developing confidence in interpreting pupil performance data and using it effectively to support strategic decision-making. The session focuses on helping governors understand key information and ask the right questions to improve accountability and outcomes.

22/10/26 6:00pm 11/02/27 6:00pm 20/05/27 10:00am

## AN INTRODUCTION TO ACADEMIES AND MULTI-ACADEMY TRUSTS

SUITABLE FOR ACADEMIES ONLY

A course designed for all new Trustees and Local Governors at Academies. Trustees and Local Governors should attend induction training as soon as possible after election/appointment to give them an understanding of their role and enable them to play an active part in their Trust.

10/09/26 10:00am 10/02/27 5:30pm 07/07/27 10:00am

## ANTI-BULLYING: A GOVERNORS INTRODUCTION

SUITABLE FOR MAINTAINED SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES

This session will consider the importance of anti-bullying work in schools, including statutory duties placed upon Governors and school leaders. It will also explore effective strategies to positively address bullying in schools and how Governors can ensure strategic accountability around this sensitive yet vital issue.

21/10/26 6:30pm 11/02/27 7:00pm 25/06/27 10:30am

## NEW: DRIVING SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT THROUGH GOVERNANCE

SUITABLE FOR MAINTAINED SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES

This practical session focuses on how governors can strategically support school improvement through effective governance, clear strategy, constructive challenge, and informed decision-making. It will cover key governor responsibilities, important questions governors should ask, and how to demonstrate governance impact in line with current Ofsted expectations, with the ultimate aim of improving outcomes for children.

17/11/26 5:30pm 24/03/26 5:30pm 23/06/26 5:30pm

## AN INSPECTOR CALLS – PLANNING AND PREPARING FOR SCHOOL INSPECTION

### SUITABLE FOR MAINTAINED SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES

There are several changes to the way in which Ofsted will conduct inspections from the academic year 2026/2027. This briefing provides a summary of these and is intended to provide governors with a clear understanding of what they look like in practice.

By the end of the session you will be able to understand:

- The key changes to inspection for this academic year.
- The elements which have remain unchanged.

During the session we will:

- Examine themes arising from these changes that it is useful for governors to have an awareness of.
- Explore ways in which governors can engage effectively with the inspection process.
- Identify methods for articulating a compelling account of governing board effectiveness.

24/09/26 6:00pm 14/01/27 6:00pm 15/04/27 10:00am

## MAINTAINED SCHOOLS BUDGET FOR BEGINNERS

### SUITABLE FOR MAINTAINED SCHOOLS ONLY

Delegates will receive an overview of the key elements of the school budget system, how schools are funded, and an explanation of key annual activities.

10/11/26 5:30pm 16/03/27 5:30pm 08/06/27 5:30pm

## UNDERSTANDING THE STATUTORY DUTIES OF GOVERNORS IN RELATION TO THE FOUR AREAS OF SEND UNDER THE CODE OF PRACTICE

### SUITABLE FOR MAINTAINED SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES

You will gain an overview of the needs of pupils with social emotional mental health and who this affects learning and behaviour and the implications in school both operationally and strategically.

07/10/26 6:15pm 10/02/27 6:15pm 19/05/27 6:15pm

## A GOVERNOR'S INTRODUCTION TO HEALTH EDUCATION

### SUITABLE FOR MAINTAINED SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES

This training session aims to raise awareness of how Governors can make a positive contribution to the health and wellbeing of their school community, with an overview of key health-related issues, statutory responsibilities and how schools can better promote the physical and mental health of pupils.

02/10/26 1:30pm 20/01/27 7:00pm 22/04/27 7:00pm

## EFFECTIVE CHALLENGE

### SUITABLE FOR MAINTAINED SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES

This session will help Governor's and Trustees ensure that they are holding their leaders to account.

15/09/26 5:30pm 03/02/27 5:30pm 13/04/27 5:30pm

## SAFER RECRUITMENT

### SUITABLE FOR MAINTAINED SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES

Safer recruitment is an essential part of safeguarding.

Our face-to-face courses cover:

- Developing safer recruitment policies and procedures for your organisation preparing to recruit
- Selecting the right people to interview carrying out thorough background checks
- Responding to concerns identified through background checks and assessing risk
- Responding to inappropriate behaviour and allegations of abuse.

14/10/26 9:00am 18/11/26 9:00am 20/01/27 9:00am 17/03/27 9:00am

## AN INTRODUCTION TO DIVERSITY, EQUALITY, AND INCLUSION

### SUITABLE FOR MAINTAINED SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES

This course will cover the following:

- What is DEI?
- The Protected Characteristics
- Key Terms including understanding power & privilege
- Where do we start?
- How do we do this work?
- Inclusive behaviours/ allyship and belonging

16/09/26 6:00pm 03/03/27 6:00pm 09/06/27 6:00pm

## ACADEMY FINANCE FOR BEGINNERS

### SUITABLE FOR ACADEMIES ONLY

A course designed for all new Trustees.

Trustees should attend induction training as soon as possible after election/appointment to give them an understanding of their role and enable them to play an active part in their Trust.

This session will give a basic overview of Academy finance

15/09/26 5:30pm 19/01/27 5:30pm 27/04/27 5:30pm

## NEW: REMEMBERING YOUR WORTH

### SUITABLE FOR MAINTAINED SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES

Maintaining your wellbeing in your role. Life is all about balance and how we can maintain it.

In this new workshop for both new and existing governors and trustees we explore:

- The value of you and your role.
- Your support system as a Governor or Trustee.
- Maintaining your wellbeing.
- Tools and Strategies to keep balance and prevent burnout.

The course is led by Samantha Leedham of Mind Escape Wellbeing Ltd. Samantha is a talk therapist and a wellbeing partner working with S4S.

29/09/26 10:00am 21/01/27 1:30pm 10/05/27 6:00pm

## A GOVERNOR'S ROLE IN PUPIL EXCLUSIONS

### SUITABLE FOR MAINTAINED SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES

This course will provide delegates with the underpinning knowledge to enable them to perform their statutory duties as part of a Pupil Exclusion panel. The session looks at the statutory guidance which sits behind the exclusions process through to looking at what happens at an exclusion hearing. Any Governor asked to consider suspensions or exclusions should have undertaken training. It is recommended that this training is refreshed every 2 years.

01/10/26 10:00am 01/12/26 10:00am 07/01/27 5:30pm 03/03/27 10:00am 29/04/27 10:00am 15/06/27 10:00am

## THE SEND LINK GOVERNOR: ROLE & RESPONSIBILITIES & HOW TO EFFECTIVELY CARRY OUT THE ROLE

### SUITABLE FOR MAINTAINED SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES

This session will give an overview of the needs of pupils with social, emotional and mental health issues and how this affects learning and behaviour and the implications in school both operationally and strategically.

23/09/26 6:15pm 27/01/27 6:15pm 05/05/27 6:15pm

## THE ROLE OF GOVERNORS IN ATTENDANCE: STATUTORY DUTIES, SAFEGUARDING AND CURRENT DFE/OFSTED EXPECTATIONS

### SUITABLE FOR MAINTAINED SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES

This session will help Governors understand their statutory responsibilities for attendance and current DfE and Ofsted expectations, the link between attendance, safeguarding and pupil welfare, and how schools should address barriers to attendance, particularly for vulnerable pupils. It will also cover the Governor's role in scrutinising attendance data, supporting improvement, providing effective challenge and support, and include practical examples, discussion and a Q&A.

17/11/26 5:30pm 11/03/27 9:30am 15/06/27 5:30pm

## A GOVERNOR'S ROLE IN COMPLAINT PANELS

### SUITABLE FOR ACADEMIES ONLY

This session is designed to provide Governors with a comprehensive understanding of their role on a complaints panel. It will cover key aspects such as the purpose of the panel, the complaints process, and the importance of impartiality and confidentiality.

08/12/26 5:30pm 23/02/27 10:00am 16/06/26 10:00am

## RELATIONSHIPS & SEX EDUCATION (RSE): THE ROLE OF GOVERNORS

### SUITABLE FOR MAINTAINED SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES

This session will focus on school roles and responsibilities around relationships and sex education. It is important that Governors understand what this means and how and why best practice within this subject is essential for supporting pupils and meeting statutory responsibilities.

12/11/26 10:30am 24/03/27 1:00pm 07/06/27 7:00pm

## A GOVERNOR'S ROLE IN AN INDEPENDENT REVIEW PANEL

### SUITABLE FOR MAINTAINED SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES

This session will provide delegates with the underpinning knowledge to enable them to perform their statutory duties as part of an Independent Review Panel. The session looks at the statutory guidance, the IRP process and what happens on the day of a hearing. Any Governor asked to consider suspensions or exclusions should have undertaken training. If you are going to serve on an IRP, you need to have completed this training within the last 2 years.

06/10/26 5:30pm 09/02/27 10:00am 29/06/27 10:00am

## EFFECTIVE LINK GOVERNOR VISITS

### SUITABLE FOR MAINTAINED SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES

Governors are expected to know their schools and visits, if effective, can play a key part in equipping Governors with an insight and provide triangulation. This course will assist delegates with carrying out effective Link Governor visits explaining the purpose and looking at the etiquette of visits.

24/11/26 10:00am 26/01/27 5:30pm 12/05/27 10:00am

## MONITORING & EVALUATION

### SUITABLE FOR MAINTAINED SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES

This course will assist Governors' awareness and confidence in being accountable for key strategic areas of governance. It will identify what Governors should monitor and increase their knowledge and awareness of Ofsted expectations. The content will include aspects of Schools visits to assist in triangulation of evidence, which is a key function of self-evaluation.

24/09/26 5:30pm 14/01/27 5:30pm 12/05/27 5:30pm

## MEETING THE NEEDS OF PUPILS WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS & DISABILITIES

### SUITABLE FOR MAINTAINED SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES

This session will look at the roles and responsibilities of trustees and governing bodies as set out in the Code of Practice.

16/09/26 6:15pm 20/01/27 6:15pm 28/04/27 6:15pm

## A GOVERNOR'S ROLE IN COMPLAINT PANELS

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This course is designed to provide Governors with a comprehensive understanding of their role in a complaints panel. It will cover key aspects such as the purpose of the panel, the complaints process, and the importance of impartiality and confidentiality.

02/12/26 10:00am 09/03/27 5:30pm 17/06/27 10:00am

**ADVANCED GOVERNANCE****SUITABLE FOR MAINTAINED SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES**

This session will assist Governors/Trustees in holding their senior leaders to account and ensuring high standards and the best outcomes for learners. The session will explore a wide range of questions which can be used to identify strengths and areas of development.

03/11/26 5:30pm 11/02/27 5:30pm 09/06/27 5:30pm

**EFFECTIVE SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT WITH PARENTS/CARERS AROUND RELATIONSHIPS, SEX AND HEALTH EDUCATION (RSHE)****SUITABLE FOR MAINTAINED SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES**

RSHE has been a statutory curriculum requirement in England since September 2020. One of the cornerstones of best practice within RSHE is effective, clear and transparent engagement with parents and carers. This session will ensure that Governors are fully aware of what meaningful communication and engagement looks like, what is required from a statutory perspective, and the positive opportunities and benefits this brings to schools and communities.

24/09/26 6:30pm 29/01/27 1:00pm 12/05/27 10:30am

**DRUG AWARENESS FOR GOVERNORS****SUITABLE FOR MAINTAINED SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES**

Drug Education is now a statutory component of the school curriculum as part of the DfE requirements within Health Education. This short introductory course aims to give Governors understanding around basic drug awareness and substance related issues that affect children and young people. It will cover established elements of best practice in curriculum provision and whole school responses, plus the responsibilities placed upon schools around managing drug related incidents.

07/12/26 6:30pm 03/03/27 1:00pm 10/06/27 7:00pm

**WORKING WITH YOUR GOVERNANCE PROFESSIONAL****SUITABLE FOR MAINTAINED SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES**

Your Governance Professional plays a key role in effective governance for your school or Trust. This session will look at how to build an effective relationship with your Clerk/Senior School Governance Advisor and how you can work effectively together. This is especially important in terms of the relationship with the Chair and Headteacher.

13/10/26 10:00am 25/02/27 5:30pm 11/05/27 10:00am

**MEETING THE NEEDS OF PUPILS WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS & DISABILITIES****SUITABLE FOR MAINTAINED SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES**

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16/09/26 6:15pm 20/01/27 6:15pm 28/04/27 6:15pm

**THE SEND LINK GOVERNOR: ROLE & RESPONSIBILITIES AND HOW TO EFFECTIVELY CARRY OUT THE ROLE****SUITABLE FOR MAINTAINED SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES**

This session will give an overview of the needs of pupils with social, emotional and mental health issues and how this affects learning and behaviour and the implications in school both operationally and strategically.

23/09/26 6:15pm 27/01/27 6:15pm 05/05/27 6:15pm

**CHAIR/VICE CHAIRS BRIEFING****SUITABLE FOR MAINTAINED SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES**

This session aims to deliver important updates for Chairs/Vice Chairs of Governing Boards. The briefing will also include information on standard agenda items that should have been covered during the autumn term and items for consideration in the spring term. The session will also give opportunities for networking and Q & A.

14/09/26 10:00am 17/09/26 6:00pm 11/01/27 10:00am 14/01/27 6:00pm 19/04/27 10:00am 22/04/27 6:00pm

**ADVANCED ACADEMY FINANCE****SUITABLE FOR ACADEMIES ONLY**

This session aims to develop the financial awareness of Academy Trustees in order for them to comply with the Academies Financial Handbook, charity and company law requirements.

It will help Trustees to:

- Understand the role of the individual trustee within the governance structure and the nature of collective responsibility
- To have a better understanding of the Statutory Financial accounts, including the skills to read a set of accounts
- Explanation of the financial responsibilities of the Key Financial Officers
- Acknowledge Directors' accountability for the performance of schools within a Trust

13/10/26 5:30pm 02/02/27 5:30pm 04/05/27 5:30pm

**PRESENTING TO GOVERNORS' MEETINGS****SUITABLE FOR MAINTAINED SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES**

This session is aimed at staff including Headteachers who are new to presenting to Governors' meetings or who would like to learn more about effective governance. The session will look at ways in which information can be presented and the expectations of Governors to question and challenge the information provided.

22/09/26 10:00am 04/02/27 10:00am 19/05/27 10:00am

**A GOVERNOR'S INTRODUCTION TO FOOD IN SCHOOLS****SUITABLE FOR MAINTAINED SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES**

This introductory training session will examine some of the issues and statutory duties around food in school, and the important role that Governors have in driving a positive whole-school culture around healthy lifestyles.

26/11/26 1:30pm 18/03/27 7:00pm 17/06/27 10:30am



ACADEMIES &amp; MAINTAINED SCHOOLS



ACADEMIES ONLY



MAINTAINED SCHOOLS

**PRESENTING TO GOVERNORS' MEETINGS**

## SUITABLE FOR MAINTAINED SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES

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22/09/26 10:00am 04/02/27 10:00am 19/05/27 10:00am

**THE IMPORTANCE OF DIVERSITY, EQUALITY, AND INCLUSION IN LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE**

## SUITABLE FOR MAINTAINED SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES

You will gain an overview of the following areas as part of attending this session

- Empowering Diverse Leadership
- Creating and Embedding Sustainable Diverse Governance
- Creating and ensuring Psychological Safety
- Case Studies from my practice
- What is next for me in my context

30/09/26 6:00pm 24/03/27 6:00pm 28/04/27 6:00pm

**ADMISSION APPEALS - AN INTRODUCTION FOR PANEL MEMBERS**

## SUITABLE FOR MAINTAINED SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES

This session covers the role of panel members when considering admission appeals and looks at the process and procedure involved and what to expect at a hearing. The training should be undertaken before sitting on a panel.

15/10/26 10:00am 27/01/27 5:30pm 23/03/27 10:00am

**RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF GOVERNORS**

## SUITABLE FOR MAINTAINED SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES

The national picture is showing that it is becoming more difficult to recruit and retain new Governors/Trustees to Boards. This session looks at practical steps which can be taken to support your Governors/Trustees and improve retention.

10/12/26 10:00am 05/01/27 5:30pm 13/04/27 10:00am

**A GOVERNOR'S ROLE IN PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT**

## SUITABLE FOR MAINTAINED SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES

This course is aimed at guiding Governors through the performance management process. This course would be very beneficial for Governors who sit on Pay and Appraisal Committees.

15/10/26 5:30pm 28/01/27 5:30pm 22/04/27 5:30pm



ACADEMIES &amp; MAINTAINED SCHOOLS



ACADEMIES ONLY



MAINTAINED SCHOOLS

**ADVANCED SAFEGUARDING**

## SUITABLE FOR MAINTAINED SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES

This session will explore your roles and responsibilities as Governors in relation to Safeguarding. We will look at your duties as set out in Keeping Children Safe in Education and the Ofsted framework; explore the essentials for effective safeguarding and look at ways in which you can support and challenge safeguarding practice in your school.

20/10/26 5:30pm 02/02/27 5:30pm 07/06/27 5:30pm

**VISION AND VALUES**

## SUITABLE FOR MAINTAINED SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES

This session will give Governors and Trustees an overview of how their vision feeds into the School Development Plan and their responsibilities concerning the SDP/SDPs.

21/10/26 5:30pm 11/03/27 5:30pm 16/06/27 5:30pm

**CHAIRS EFFECTIVENESS**

## SUITABLE FOR MAINTAINED SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES

This course will help to develop the skills of new and existing Chairs and Vice Chairs.

07/10/26 5:30pm 19/01/27 5:30pm 05/05/27 5:30pm

**A GOVERNOR'S ROLE IN HEALTH & SAFETY**

## SUITABLE FOR MAINTAINED SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES

This course is aimed at giving Governors an overview of their responsibilities with regard to health and safety. This session would be particularly beneficial to Health & Safety Link Governors.

11/11/26 5:30pm 02/03/27 5:30pm 03/06/27 5:30pm

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