

Table Discussion: Burning issues, matters of concern to education, schools and Governors

Please make a note of any points that OGA could usefully use to discuss any of these issues either locally or nationally to improve support for our schools.

1. Please list the main challenges that your schools are currently facing and then decide which are the top three, either individually or as a response from your discussion group. E.G. If there are Special or Nursery school representatives they are quite likely to have different concerns from a governor of a Primary or Secondary school. Challenges could be from any aspect of Education - Recruitment of staff and / or Governors, Finance, Assessment, Testing/ Examinations, Premises, Health & Safety or anything else!
Please note them on the feedback sheet and highlight if you think there are differences between Maintained Schools and Academies?

2. School to School Support is developing in Oxfordshire, but there is little evidence of this impacting on Governors. Is this your experience too?

Would you value the development of Local Leaders of Governance to facilitate support for schools that are facing challenges developing effective Governance?

Recently many Ofsted report of Oxfordshire schools categorised as Requiring Improvement have referred to weakness in Governance or the need for an external review of Governance. If you have had experience of such a review how helpful did you find it?
Again please note down any key points.

3. Governor Training: We have had a question from OTSA - Is there any training for governors, over and above that provided by OCC, that would be helpful?
So a discussion around the available training from OCC/ On-line/ Diocese other providers?
Do many of your Governors take up training opportunities? If not what are the barriers? Do Governors share what they have learnt more widely across the Governing Board?
Please make a note of anything that we could usefully feedback to OTSA or Governor Services

4. Headteacher recruitment: Have you had any recent experience of this. Was your Governing Body supported and if so by whom and how effective was it?
Again please note down any key points.

5. Headteachers new in post: What support has been offered and how effective has it been? Is there anything OTSA (or others) could do to support Headteachers better?
Again please note down any key points.

6. Anything else you want to discuss.

Please tell us what you discussed and note any key points.

Feedback sheet

Please write the question number you discussed and then the points noted: