

Maintained Schools Governance Guide

Summary of changes and guidance for governing bodies

June 2025

The Department for Education (DfE) [maintained schools governance guide](#) brings together information from a range of sources on the governing body's role in relation to legislative and contractual requirements as well as governance best practice in schools.

This briefing explains the key changes made this year.

Who should read the guide?

All those governing in schools should be made aware of the governance guide during their [induction](#) and refer to it as needed. The governance professional should inform the governing board of updates to all relevant DfE guidance.

While governors need to stay up to date, boards also need to be mindful of the workload involved in reading guidance documents in full.

We expect that, as a minimum, the governance guide is read in full by the:

- Governing body [chair](#) and [vice chair](#)
- Committee chairs
- [Governance professional](#)
- Headteacher

What's in the Governance Guide?

The Governance Guide is divided into eight sections which cover:

1. Effective governance
2. Strategic leadership
3. Accountability
4. People
5. Governance structures
6. Evaluation
7. Compliance
8. Statutory policies for maintained schools

What's new for 2025?

The changes this year have been minimal with no substantial policy changes. Notable changes include:

- A greater emphasis on the requirement for governing bodies to demonstrate the active **promotion of fundamental British values** (democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs).
- The need for all board members to have a basic understanding of the school's legal requirements on **procurement** as well as on accountability and spending, along with links to relevant guidance and services including NGA's [guidance on procurement](#) (produced in collaboration with the DfE).
- **School funding information** – addition of the teachers' pension employer contribution grant, core schools budget grant, and the national insurance contributions grant; removal of the mainstream schools additional grant and the recovery premium after they finished at the end of the 2023/2024 academic year.
- A requirement for the chair to sign off the school's digital reporting form return detailing how the school has used its **PE and sport premium** allocation, as explained in NGA's [PE and sport premium monitoring tool](#).
- Update to the legal basis for keeping **admission and attendance** registers under The School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024 for providing information requested by the Secretary of State on attendance under with the Education (Information About Individual Pupils) (England) Regulations 2024.
- Suggested guidance to support the promotion of good **behaviour** of pupils, including the use of [mobile phones](#) and [searching, screening and confiscation in schools](#).
- A greater emphasis on the requirement for the **school premises and facilities** to be kept up to a standard where, as much as is reasonably possible, the health, safety and welfare of pupils is guaranteed.
- A new section on nutrition under pupil mental health and wellbeing to cover the board's role in **school food**. In line with the [DfE's school food guidance for governors](#), schools are expected to have a policy on school food. View our [guidance](#) and [e-learning module](#) on this topic.