

Southwark Governor Training Autumn 2025

Welcome to the Southwark Training Programme

We're proud to offer a dynamic training programme to help governors grow in confidence and impact. With sessions for both new and experienced governors, plus leadership-focused training, you'll gain expert insights, share best practice, and stay aligned with national priorities. Whether you're starting out or looking to deepen your expertise, our programme supports your journey every step of the way.

Training Categories

To help boards plan effectively, all sessions are coded into three categories:



ESSENTIAL – Core training for all governors to understand their role and stay updated on key issues.



NEXT STEPS – Role-specific training recommended for at least one board member to build a skilled, responsive team.



GROWTH – Sessions to support succession planning and grow leadership skills.

What's new this Term

Championing the Needs of Children Looked After - The Role of School Governors

Complaints – New Trainer and session

Chairs Connect - We're excited to launch Chairs Connect — a new virtual networking forum designed exclusively for Chairs to share experiences, support one another, and explore best practices in governance

How to book

Governors with access to GovernorHub (GH) should book courses they wish to attend directly on the GH website, otherwise contact selina.mcclure@southwark.gov.uk with your training requests.

About the programme

Much of the programme takes place in the evening and will be delivered via Zoom. Any face-to face sessions will take place at Tooley Street. If your school subscribes to the Southwark Training SLA, the sessions are free of charge. Governors from non-subscribing schools will be charged a pay-as-you-use basis. You can find further course details in [GovernorHub](#) or on the SELA website: www.schools.southwark.gov.uk.

Programme at a glance

Course	Date	Time	Booking
Governors' Forum	Mon 22 Sept	18:00-20:00	Register here
Head Teachers Pay and appraisal	Mon 29 Sept	18:00-19:30	Book here
ESSENTIAL -Induction for new Governors - Governors' roles & responsibilities – Part 1	Tue 30 Sept	18:00-19:30	Book here
Safer Recruitment refresher	Thu 02 Oct	10:00-14:00	Book here
ESSENTIAL -Induction for new Governors - Governors' roles & responsibilities – Part 2	Thu 02 Oct	18:00-19:30	Book here
Financial Management for Governors	Tues 07 Oct	18:00-19:30	Book here
Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)	Wed 08 Oct	18:00-19:30	Book here
ESSENTIAL: Human Resources - what Governors need to know	Wed 13 Oct	18:00-19:30	Book here
Championing the Needs of Children Looked After - The Role of School Governors	Wed 15 Oct	18:00-19:30	Book here
Safer recruitment – in person at Tooley Street	Thurs 16 Oct	9:30-16:30	Book here
ESSENTIAL: Finance in maintained schools	Tues 21 Oct	18:00–19:30	Book here
ESSENTIAL - Safeguarding (Introductory level)	Mon 03 Nov	18:00–19:30	Book here
Budget planning and monitoring - in person @ 160 Tooley Street	TBC	18:00-20:00	TBC
Complaints - The Governance role	Mon 10 Nov	18:00–19:30	Book here
Safer Recruitment refresher	Thu 13 Nov	10:00-14:00	Book here
Effective governor monitoring visits to school	Mon 17 Nov	18:00-19:30	Book here
Online safety including DFE cyber security standards	Tues 25 Nov	18:00-19:30	Book here
Promoting the wellbeing of headteacher and SLTs in education	Wed 26 Nov	18:00-19:30	Book here
Safer recruitment – in person at Tooley Street	Thurs 27 Nov	9:30-16:30	Book here
Art of asking Powerful Questions	Thurs 27 Nov	18:30-20:00	Book here
The strategic role of governors	Mon 01 Dec	18:00-19:30	Book here
HR Panel Training	Tues 02 Dec	18:00-20:00	Book here
Safeguarding: Intermediate	Mon 08 Dec	18:00-19:30	Book here

Chairs Connect: A Virtual Forum for Leadership, Learning & Support

We're excited to launch **Chairs Connect** — a new virtual networking forum designed exclusively for Chairs to share experiences, support one another, and explore best practices in governance.

What to Expect:

- **Format:** Informal, one-hour virtual sessions
- **Frequency:** Around 3 times a year
- **Facilitation:** Led by a Chair or co-facilitated
- **Structure:** Each session will focus on a key theme (e.g., Ofsted, how to lead meetings, setting vision, dealing with complaints, succession planning)
- **Interactive Element:** A Chair will kick off with a 10-minute case study, followed by open discussion and peer exchange

We're aiming to start in **October**.

👉 **Interested in presenting a case study or sharing feedback?** Let us know — we'd love to hear from you!

Please contact Donna Muir Donna-Marie.Muir@southwark.gov.uk and Selina McClure Selina.McClure@southwark.gov.uk

Autumn Term

SEPTEMBER

Governors' Forum



ESSENTIAL

Date and time: Monday 22 Sept 2025 at 18.00-20.00 ([Register here](#))

Who the course is for: all Southwark Governors and Trustees

Course description: Southwark Governor Services are pleased to continue to support all Governors with termly information briefings. You can access previous briefings and presentations at any time [here](#)

Cost: Free for all Southwark Governors and Trustees.

Venue: Zoom

Head Teachers Pay and appraisal.



GROWTH

Date and time: Monday 29 Sept 2025 at 18.00-20.00 ([Book here](#))

Who the course is for: For governors involved in or considering taking a role in the Headteacher appraisal.

Course description: This session reviews the Headteacher's appraisal process, including the appraisal cycle, performance standards, objective setting, links to school priorities, the role of the external adviser, the review meeting, and governor's responsibilities.

Trainer: Shereen Moussa (Head of Schools Human Resources) and Nikki Tilson (Senior School Advisor)

Cost: Free of charge if your school subscribes to the Southwark Training SLA, Governors from non-subscribing schools will be charged a pay-as-you-use basis.

Venue: Zoom

"One of the best training sessions I have ever attended – virtual or in person"

Induction for new Governors - Governors' roles & responsibilities – Part 1 and 2



ESSENTIAL

Date and time: [Tuesday 30 September](#) and [Thursday 02 October 2025](#); at 18.00-19.30

Who the course is for: New Governors

Course description: The session will outline governors' roles and responsibilities including accountability - the structure of the governing board, how it operates and how you can get the most out of meetings. The course content has been reviewed to ensure it reflects the latest governance arrangements. The course comprises two sessions and governors should attend **both** sessions.

Trainer: Andrew Dodge (Education consultant)

Cost: Free of charge if your school subscribes to the Southwark Training SLA, Governors from non-subscribing schools will be charged a pay-as-you-use basis.

Venue: Zoom

OCTOBER

Safer Recruitment refresher

Date and time: Thursday 02 October repeated 13 November at 10:00-14:00 ([Book here](#))



Who the course is for: To book onto this course, please show evidence of your certificate for the full day training session, dated within the last 3 years.

Course description: Southwark Schools Human Resources is running Safer Recruitment training accredited by The Safer Recruitment Consortium and deliver this to schools, to ensure schools can meet their obligation to keep children safe in education.

NEXT STEPS

Trainers: HR Team

Cost: Please see website for costs and contact schoolshr@southwark.gov.uk if you have booking queries. This session is not covered by the Southwark Training SLA.

Venue: Online

Financial Management for Governors - An introduction to maintained school financial management and funding, and the questions to ask (shared with Lambeth)



Date and time: Tuesday 07 Oct at 18.00-19.30 ([Book here](#))

Who the course is for: For LA maintained school governors only, contents not relevant to academy or free school governors.

ESSENTIAL

Course description: This session provides governors with a clear understanding of how schools are funded and their strategic role in approving and monitoring the school budget. It builds confidence in interpreting financial information and highlights key tools like Financial Benchmarking and the Schools Efficiency Metric to evaluate spending effectiveness.

Trainer: Sarah Amissah (Education Governance Strategic Lead- Croydon)

Cost: Free of charge if your school subscribes to the Southwark Training SLA, Governors from non-subscribing schools will be charged a pay-as-you-use basis.

Venue: TEAMS

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

Date and time: Wednesday 08 October 2025 at 18.00-19.30 ([Book here](#))



Who the course is for: All Governors

Course description: This session outlines the responsibilities of the governing body for overseeing the provision of education to children with special educational needs and

NEXT STEPS disabilities. It covers inclusive school; Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans, the Local Offer, the Code of Practice, personal budgets and funding; the future of SEND - the SEND reforms; the role of the governing body, the link governor and others

Trainer: Stuart Hayter (Education consultant)

Cost: Free of charge if your school subscribes to the Southwark Training SLA, Governors from non-subscribing schools will be charged a pay-as-you-use basis.

Venue: Zoom

ESSENTIAL: Human Resources - what Governors need to know

Date and time: Wednesday 13 October 2025 at 18.00-19.30 ([Book here](#))



Who the course is for: All Governors

Course description: This course introduces you to the human resources framework within which schools and governors operate:

- ESSENTIAL**
- staffing structure and appointments, including safer recruitment, equal opportunities, disability and discrimination legislation
 - staff dismissal - discipline and capability procedures; grievance procedure
 - teacher appraisal and pay, including the Headteacher's performance appraisal.

Trainer: Shereen Moussa (Head of Schools Human Resources)

Cost: Free of charge if your school subscribes to the Southwark Training SLA, Governors from non-subscribing schools will be charged a pay-as-you-use basis.

Venue: Zoom

Championing the Needs of Children Looked After - The Role of School Governors *NEW*

Date and time: Wednesday 15 October 2025 at 18.00-19.30 ([Book here](#))



Who the course is for: All Governors

Course description: It covers key areas including educational outcomes, the role of the Designated Teacher, barriers to learning such as trauma, and how schools can respond

NEXT STEPS through whole-school and classroom strategies. Additional topics include admissions, attendance, exclusions, and preparation for Ofsted, equipping governors with the knowledge to champion vulnerable pupils effectively.

Trainers: Usha Singh (Virtual School Head) and Kate Bainbridge (Child in Need Coordinator) at Southwark Virtual School.

Cost: Free of charge if your school subscribes to the Southwark Training SLA, Governors from non-subscribing schools will be charged a pay-as-you-use basis.

Venue: Zoom

Safer Recruitment

Date and time: Thursday 16 October repeated 27 November 2025 at 09:00-16:30 ([Book here](#))



Who the course is for: Anyone who will be involved in recruitment and has not had any training within the last 4 years.

Course description: Southwark Schools Human Resources is running Safer Recruitment training accredited by The Safer Recruitment Consortium and deliver this to schools, to ensure schools can meet their obligation to keep children safe in education.

Trainers: HR Team

Cost: Please see website for costs and contact schoolshr@southwark.gov.uk if you have booking queries. This session is not covered by the Southwark Training SLA.

Venue: Tooley Street

Finance in maintained schools



ESSENTIAL

Date and time: Tuesday 21 October at 18.00-19.30 ([Book here](#))

Who the course is for: For LA maintained school governors only, contents not relevant to academy or free school governors

Course description: This session provides essential information for governors on their financial oversight responsibilities in schools. It covers key topics such as financial regulations, school funding and its annual cycle, budget setting and monitoring, and the roles of the governing body, school, and Local Authority. Please note Schools finance does not support or deal with academies. There is crossover between what is covered and academies., however there are some sections of the session that do not apply.

Trainer: Hayden Judd and Andrea Dennis (School Finance)

Cost: Free of charge if your school subscribes to the Southwark Training SLA, Governors from non-subscribing schools will be charged a pay-as-you-use basis.

Venue: TEAMS

NOVEMBER

Safeguarding (Introductory level)



Date and time: Monday 03 November 2025 at 18.00-19.30 ([Book here](#))

Who the course is for: Governors who have undertaken no previous safeguarding or child protection training. This is also a useful **refresher** for all Governors and Trustees.

ESSENTIAL Course description: Governing boards and MATs are required to ensure that schools work to safeguard pupils and promote their welfare. This session covers key legal duties, DfE expectations, risks (including online and contextual), and safe professional practice.

Trainer: John Guest (Education Consultant)

Cost: Free of charge if your school subscribes to the Southwark Training SLA, Governors from non-subscribing schools will be charged a pay-as-you-use basis.

Venue: Zoom

Budget planning and monitoring in maintained schools @ Tooley Street



Date and time: TBC ([Book here](#))

Who the course is for: Experienced governors (especially those who sit on a Finance/Resources committee) and new governors that have completed the finance essentials training

NEXT STEPS Course description: Struggle with budget plans or monitoring reports? This practical, face-to-face course is for governors who want to build confidence in understanding school finances. Bring your school's budget documents and get guided through the numbers and key questions to ask.

Trainers: Hayden Judd and Andrea Dennis (School Finance)

Cost: Free of charge if your school subscribes to the Southwark Training SLA, Governors from non-subscribing schools will be charged a pay-as-you-use basis.

Venue: Tooley Street in person

Complaints - The Governance role *NEW TRAINER*

Date and time: Monday 10 November 2025 at 18.00-19.30 ([Book here](#))



Who the course is for: All Governors

Course description: This session gives governors a clear overview of their role in handling complaints, including legal duties, the complaints process, and managing complex cases.

NEXT STEPS Trainer: Maria Goldsmith (Education consultant)

Cost: Free of charge if your school subscribes to the Southwark Training SLA, Governors from non-subscribing schools will be charged a pay-as-you-use basis.

Venue: Zoom

Effective governor monitoring visits to school *NEW TRAINER*

Date and time: Monday 17 November 2025 at 18.00-19.30 ([Book here](#))



Who the course is for: All Governors

Course description: This session helps governors understand how monitoring visits support their core functions. It covers key tools like the SEF, SDP, and Ofsted framework,

NEXT STEPS how to evaluate visit reports, and how to triangulate evidence from various sources.

Governors will also explore best practices and learn to plan effective, welcomed visits throughout the school year.

Trainer: Donna Muir (Head of Governor Services)

Cost: Free of charge if your school subscribes to the Southwark Training SLA, Governors from non-subscribing schools will be charged a pay-as-you-use basis.

Venue: Zoom

“Hands down best training session I've been on this year. Clear real-life examples and incredibly knowledgeable about what it takes to be an effective governor”

Online safety including DFE cyber security standards

Date and time: Tuesday 25 November at 18.00-19.30 ([Book here](#))



Who the course is for: All governors, particularly those with safeguarding responsibility

Course description: This session explores the role of governors and trustees in supporting and challenging their schools in how they address their online safety

NEXT STEPS responsibility and considers what security measures schools are required to take to mitigate the risks posed by cyber-attacks.

Trainer: David Powell (Education Consultant)

Cost: Free of charge if your school subscribes to the Southwark Training SLA, Governors from non-subscribing schools will be charged a pay-as-you-use basis.

Venue: Zoom

“Excellent presentation and discussion from the training providers who made everything accessible and not disguised in complicated language”

Promoting the wellbeing of headteacher and SLTs in education

Date and time: Wednesday 26 November at 18.00-19.30 ([Book here](#))

Who the course is for: All governors, especially Chairs

Course description: This session helps governors understand their role in supporting senior staff wellbeing, covering legal duties, practical actions, mental health, and key questions to ask.

GROWTH Trainer: Shereen Moussa (Head of Schools Human Resources)

Cost: Free of charge if your school subscribes to the Southwark Training SLA, Governors from non-subscribing schools will be charged a pay-as-you-use basis.

Venue: Zoom



The Art of Asking Powerful Questions

Date and time: Thursday 27 November at 18.30-20.00 ([Book here](#))



Who the course is for: All governors

Course description: Using powerful, intentional questions is a skill and this session explores the positive effects of asking the right questions, at the right time, in the right

NEXT STEPS way to challenge robustly and with kindness. We look at the difference in purpose between open and closed questions to enable you to remain curious, probe sufficiently, and act as a critical friend as part of your role as a Governor/Trustee.

Trainer: Croydon Education Partnership

Cost: Free of charge if your school subscribes to the Southwark Training SLA, Governors from non-subscribing schools will be charged a pay-as-you-use basis.

Venue: TEAMS

DECEMBER

The strategic role of governors

Date and time: Monday 01 December 2025 at 18.00-19.30 ([Book here](#))



GROWTH

Who the course is for: All governors, particularly those in a Chairing role.

Course description: This interactive 90-minute Zoom session explores how governors can effectively fulfil their strategic role. It covers key areas such as vision and values, improvement planning, resourcing, appraisal, and succession planning. Suitable for all governors, the session aims to strengthen understanding of strategic leadership and how to evidence the board's impact.

Trainer: Andrew Dodge (Education Consultant)

Cost: Free of charge if your school subscribes to the Southwark Training SLA, Governors from non-subscribing schools will be charged a pay-as-you-use basis.

Venue: Zoom

“Really helpful presentation. Having both the legal and HR perspectives worked really well.”

HR Panel Training



NEXT STEPS

Date and time: Tuesday 02 December 2025 at 18.00-20.00 ([Book here](#))

Who the course is for: Any non-staff governors/Trustees. *There is an expectation that all governors that take part in panels will have accessed this training.*

Course description: This course prepares governors to participate effectively in panel hearings. It covers the types of panels, the roles of HR and the clerk, how to manage information, maintain confidentiality and impartiality, and make lawful, values-led decisions aligned with Southwark's principles and strategies.

Trainers: Shereen Moussa (Head of Schools Human Resources) and Marcia Van-Loo (Specialist Employment Lawyer)

Cost: Free for all Southwark Governors and Trustees

Venue: Zoom

“Exactly what I wanted as 'safeguarding governor'”

Safeguarding: Intermediate



NEXT STEPS

Date and time: Monday 08 December 2025 at 18.00-19.30 ([Book here](#))

Who the course is for: Safeguarding Link governors and governors who have completed an introduction to safeguarding.

Course description: This session builds on introduction to safeguarding. This session explores the strategic role of governors in promoting a strong safeguarding culture. It covers how to support and challenge the Designated Safeguarding Lead, addresses harmful sexual behaviours and online safety, and highlights the importance of supporting LAC.

Trainers: John Guest (Education Consultant)

Cost: Free of charge if your school subscribes to the Southwark Training SLA, Governors from non-subscribing schools will be charged a pay-as-you-use basis.

Venue: Zoom

Sessions with Dates TBC

Monitoring the curriculum



Date and time: TBC

Who the course is for: All governors

Course description: This session introduces governors to their role in overseeing the curriculum, including its structure, the national curriculum, and how to monitor and evaluate its delivery across all school phases

NEXT STEPS

Trainers: Cara Cahill (NQT and IYT Adviser)

Cost: Free of charge if your school subscribes to the Southwark Training SLA, Governors from non-subscribing schools will be charged a pay-as-you-use basis.

Venue: Zoom