

Southwark Governor Training Spring 2026

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

Exclusion training

Exclusions in practice training

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
Governance for Special Schools and Specialist Settings	Mon 19 Jan	18:00–19:30	Book here
Governors' Forum	Tues 20 Jan	18:00-20:00	Register here
Leading the Way: How Governors can Drive EDI in Schools	Thurs 22 Jan	18:00–19:30	Book here
Exclusions Training for Governors	Wed 28 Jan	18:00-20:00	Book here
Safer recruitment – in person at Tooley Street	Thurs 29 Jan	9:30-16:30	Book here
ESSENTIAL -Induction for new Governors - Governors' roles & responsibilities – Part 1	Fri 30 Jan	10:00-11:30	Book here
ESSENTIAL -Induction for new Governors - Governors' roles & responsibilities – Part 2	Fri 30 Jan	13:00-14:30	Book here
Complaints - The Governance role	Mon 02 Feb	18:00–20.00	Book here
ESSENTIAL - Finance in maintained schools	Wed 04 Feb	18:00-19:30	Book here
ESSENTIAL: Human Resources - what Governors need to know	Mon 09 Feb	18:00-19:30	Book here
Exclusions in practice	Wed 11 Feb	18:00-20:30	Book here
Effective governing body self-evaluation	Mon 23 Feb	18:00-19:30	Book here
ESSENTIAL - Safeguarding (Introductory level)	Tue 24 Feb	18:00–19:30	Book here
Promoting the wellbeing of headteacher and SLTs in education	Mon 02 March	18:00-19:30	Book here
Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)- What governors need to know.	Tue 03 March	18:00-19:30	Book here
Budget planning and monitoring - in person @ 160 Tooley Street	Wed 04 March	18:00-19:30	Book here
Safeguarding: Intermediate	Mon 09 March	18:00-19:30	Book here
Effective Time Management and Prioritisation	Mon 09 March	18:30 –20.00	Book here
Safer recruitment refresher	Thurs 12 March	10:00-14:00	Book here
Safeguarding – practical application	Mon 16 March	18:00-19:30	Book here
HR Panel Training	Tues 17 March	18:00-20:00	Book here
From Conflict to Collaboration: Building Trust and Manging Difficult Conversations	Thurs 19 March	18:30 –20.00	Book here
The Effective Chair Part 1	Mon 23 March	18:00-19:30	Book here
The Effective Chair Part 2	Weds 25 March	18:00-19:30	Book here
Diversifying Governing Bodies: Practical Steps to Create Diverse Boards	Thurs 26 March	18:00-19:30	Book here
Financial Management for Governors	Thurs 26 March	18:00-20:00	Book here

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

We're excited to launch **Chairs Connect** this year — 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

👉 **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

Spring Term

January

“Great training. Presenter knew the topic inside and out and had some good practical tips.”

Governance for Special Schools and Specialist Settings

Date and time: Monday 19 January 2026 at 18:00 –19:30 ([Book here](#))



Who the course is for: Governors or Trustees of special schools or other specialist settings. It’s also relevant for those in mainstream schools with high levels or complexity of SEND.

Course description: This session covers key governance responsibilities, including inclusion, staff readiness, and oversight of health provision, while addressing challenges like staffing and funding. Practical tools, such as suggested meeting cycles, will also be shared.

Trainer: Adam Boddison (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

Governors’ Forum



Date and time: Tuesday 20 January 2026 at 18:00-20.00– [Register here](#)

Who the course is for: all Southwark Governors and Trustees

ESSENTIAL

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

Leading the Way: How Governors can Drive EDI in Schools

Date and time: Thursday 22 January 2026 at 18:00-19.30 ([Book here](#))



Who the course is for: the course is relevant to all governors but would benefit **Chairs** who wish to develop their boards

Course description: The session will explore barriers to engaging with equality, diversity and inclusion, clarify schools’ duties under the Equality Act 2010, and highlight how data and strategy can drive progress. Governors will also learn how to reduce bias in key decisions and hold leadership to account.

Trainer: EqualTeach (Education service)

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

“Delivered in an approachable and understandable way, staff and governors came out of the sessions with a comprehensive understanding of the way exclusions work.”

Exclusions Training for Governors

Date and time: Wednesday 28 Jan 2026 at 18:00-20.00 ([Book here](#))



Who the course is for: Those new to exclusions, those needing a refresher, and school leaders seeking insight into the governing board's role

Course description: This two-hour Zoom course equips governors with the knowledge and confidence to review a headteacher's decision to exclude a pupil. It's ideal for those new to exclusions, those needing a refresher, and school leaders seeking insight into the governing board's role. The session covers legal guidance, types of exclusion, key considerations, the review process, and how to reach and communicate a defensible decision.

Trainer: Malcolm Leigh (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

Safer Recruitment



Date and time: Thursday 29 January 2026 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.

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: Tooley Street

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



Date and time: Friday 30 Jan - Part 1: [10:00-11:30](#); Part 2: [13:00-14:30](#)

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.

ESSENTIAL

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

February

Complaints - The Governance role *NEW TRAINER*

Date and time: Monday 02 February 2026 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

Finance in maintained schools



ESSENTIAL

Date and time: Wednesday 04 February at 18:00 to 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

ESSENTIAL: Human Resources - what Governors need to know

Date and time: Monday 09 February 2026 at 18:00 –19:30 ([Book here](#))



ESSENTIAL

Who the course is for: All Governors

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

- 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

“Lots of vital information brought to life with role playing, break out rooms and polls - an unforgettable experience!”

Exclusions in Practice

Date and time: Wednesday 11 February 2026 at 18:00-20.30 ([Book here](#))



Who the course is for: Those new to exclusions, those needing a refresher, and school leaders seeking insight into the governing board's role

Course description: This 2½ hour Zoom session blends theory with practical exercises to help governors understand and apply the exclusion process. It's ideal for governors new to exclusions, those needing a refresher, and school leaders seeking insight into the governing board's role. The session includes a quiz, an overview of the Independent Review Panel, and a realistic exclusion hearing scenario involving a Year 7 pupil with SEN. Participants review evidence, vote on outcomes, and explore key decision-making points. By the end, governors will be confident in handling exclusions and making defensible decisions.

Trainer: Malcolm Leigh (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 governing body self-evaluation

Date and time: Monday 23 February 2026 at 18:00 –19:30 ([Book here](#))



Who the course is for: All Governors

Course description: DfE Governance guidance highlights the importance of regular self-evaluation by governing bodies. This session helps governors understand how reviewing their effectiveness supports school improvement. It explores the role of self-evaluation, introduces practical tools, and encourages a culture of reflection and impact-focused governance.

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

Safeguarding (Introductory level)



Date and time: Monday 24 February 2026 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.

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

March

“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: Monday 02 March 2026 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

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

Date and time: Tuesday 03 March 2026 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

“This has given me the skills and knowledge to be able to challenge and ask questions with regard to the budget.”

Budget planning and monitoring in maintained schools @ Tooley Street



Date and time: Wednesday 04 March at 18.00-19.30 ([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

NEXT STEPS essentials training

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

“Exactly what I wanted as ‘safeguarding governor’”

Safeguarding: Intermediate

Date and time: Monday 09 March 2026 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

NEXT STEPS 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

Effective Time Management and Prioritisation

Date and time: Monday 09 March 2026 at 18:30 –20.00 ([Book here](#))



Who the course is for: New and experienced Governors and Trustees.

Course description: This session digs deeper into a values-based approach to

NEXT STEPS Prioritising your responsibilities, helping you move from ‘firefighting’ and juggling your different responsibilities towards a planned approach, starting with the end in mind. It offers Governors and Trustees a chance to identify and work on individual strategies to enable you to use your time effectively and balance your commitments and thus serve your board more effectively.

Trainers: Jannine Howe (Executive Coach and Facilitator). This session is run by 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

Safer Recruitment refresher

Date and time: Thursday 12 March 2026 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

NEXT STEPS 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: Online

Safeguarding – practical application

Date and time: Monday 16 March 2026 at 18:00 –19:30 ([Book here](#))



Who the course is for: Governors who have completed the introductory and intermediate level training, and particularly those with safeguarding responsibility.

NEXT STEPS

Course description: This course focuses on the practical aspects of safeguarding to help governors fulfil their responsibilities. It covers how to monitor the Single Central Record, carry out safeguarding visits, review the LA safeguarding audit, and ensure statutory policies are properly reviewed and ratified. Governors will also receive resources to support effective monitoring and compliance.

Trainers: 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

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

HR Panel Training

Date and time: Tuesday 17 March 2026 at 18:00 –19:30 ([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.*

NEXT STEPS

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

From Conflict to Collaboration: Building Trust and Managing Difficult Conversations

Date and time: Thursday 19 March at 18:30-20.00 ([Book here](#))



GROWTH

Who the course is for: Suitable for all governors and trustees

Course description: This session supports governors and leaders to approach conflict with confidence and curiosity rather than avoidance. Participants explore the causes of conflict, their personal response style, and how to shift challenging conversations towards constructive outcomes. Through practical tools and structured discussion, the

session develops skills in managing emotions, communicating clearly, and finding common ground—ultimately strengthening relationships and decision-making within governance

Trainer: This session is run by 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

“A highly interactive and very useful course which has given me some great simple ideas to implement immediately and help me operate more effectively as a chair.”

The Effective Chair Part 1 and 2

Date and time: Monday 23 March and Wednesday 25 March at 18:00 –19:30 ([Book here](#))



GROWTH

Who the course is for: Current and aspiring chairs and vice-chairs

Course description: This session focuses on the key skills and knowledge needed to lead effectively, work in partnership, and motivate others. Topics include leading the governing body, supporting strategic leadership, building strong relationships with the headteacher and governors, and ensuring accountability. **Governors must commit to**

attending 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

Diversifying Governing Bodies: Practical Steps to Create Diverse Boards

Date and time: Thursday 26 March at 18:00-19.30 ([Book here](#))



Who the course is for: the course is relevant to all governors but would benefit **Chairs** who wish to develop their boards

Course description: The session will help governors improve inclusive recruitment by exploring how language and advertising affect diversity, engaging the school community, and using positive action to reach underrepresented groups. It will also cover ways to reduce bias, make evidence-based decisions, and support new board members.

Trainer: EqualTeach (Education service)

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

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



ESSENTIAL

Date and time: Thursday 26 March at 18.00-20.00 ([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 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