

# Southwark Governor Training Summer 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

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](mailto: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](http://www.schools.southwark.gov.uk).

## Programme at a glance

Course	Date	Time	Booking
Navigating SEND: law, practice, and strategic oversight	Weds 15 April	18.00-20.00	<a href="#">Book here</a>
Championing the Needs of Children Looked After - The Role of School Governors	Tues 21 April	18:00 –19:30	<a href="#">Book here</a>
Safer recruitment – <b>in person at Tooley Street</b>	Thurs 30 April	9:30-16:30	<a href="#">Book here</a>
Governors' Forum	Weds 06 May	18:00-20:00	<a href="#">Register here</a>
Safer Recruitment refresher	Thurs 07 May	10:00-14:00	<a href="#">Book here</a>
<b>ESSENTIAL</b> -Induction for new Governors - Governors' roles & responsibilities – Part 1	Mon 11 May	18:00–19:30	<a href="#">Book here</a>
<b>ESSENTIAL</b> -Induction for new Governors - Governors' roles & responsibilities – Part 2	Weds 13 May	18:00–19:30	<a href="#">Book here</a>
Effective governor monitoring visits to school	Mon 18 May	18:00-19:30	<a href="#">Book here</a>
Financial Management for Governors	Weds 03 June	18:00-20:00	<a href="#">Book here</a>
HR Panel Training	Tues 08 June	18:00-20:00	<a href="#">Book here</a>
<b>ESSENTIAL:</b> Human Resources - what Governors need to know	Mon 15 June	18:00-19:30	<a href="#">Book here</a>
Safeguarding – practical application	Weds 17 June	18:00-19:30	<a href="#">Book here</a>
<b>ESSENTIAL</b> - Finance in maintained schools	Tues 24 June	18:00-19:30	<a href="#">Book here</a>
Taking SEND to the next level	Wed 24 June	18:00-19:30	<a href="#">Book here</a>
<b>ESSENTIAL</b> - Safeguarding (Introductory level)	Tue 30 June	18:00–19:30	<a href="#">Book here</a>
Online safety including DFE cyber security standards	Tues 07 July	18:00-19:30	<a href="#">Book here</a>

# 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](mailto:Donna-Marie.Muir@southwark.gov.uk) and Selina McClure [Selina.McClure@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:Selina.McClure@southwark.gov.uk)

# Summer Term

## April

### Navigating SEND: law, practice, and strategic oversight – Run by Lambeth

**Date and time:** Wednesday 15 April 2026 at 18:00 –20.00 ([Book here](#))



**Who the course is for:** All Governors

**Course description:** This session gives governors a core understanding of SEND responsibilities, legal duties, levels of provision, funding challenges, and the strategic role of the designated SEND governor in supporting pupils' needs.

**NEXT STEPS**

**Trainer:** Awo Salah (SEND 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:** TEAMS

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

**Date and time:** Tuesday 21 April 2026 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 30 April 2026 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.

**NEXT STEPS**

**Trainers:** HR Team

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

**Venue:** Tooley Street

# May

## Governors' Forum



**Date and time:** Wednesday 06 May 2026 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

## Safer Recruitment refresher

**Date and time:** Thursday 07 May 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 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](mailto:schoolshr@southwark.gov.uk) if you have booking queries. This session is not covered by the Southwark Training SLA.

**Venue:** Online

**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

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



**Date and time:** [Monday 11 May](#) and [Wednesday 13 May 2026](#) 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

## Effective governor monitoring visits to school \*NEW TRAINER\*

**Date and time:** Monday 18 May 2026 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, how to evaluate visit reports, and how to triangulate evidence from various sources.

**NEXT STEPS**

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

## JUNE

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



**Date and time:** Wednesday 03 June 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.

**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

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

## HR Panel Training

**Date and time:** Monday 08 June 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.*

**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

**NEXT STEPS**

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

## ESSENTIAL: Human Resources - what Governors need to know

**Date and time:** Monday 15 June 2026 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

### Safeguarding – practical application

**Date and time:** Wednesday 17 June 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.

**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.

**NEXT STEPS**

**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

### Finance in maintained schools

**Date and time:** Tuesday 23 June 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 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

## Taking SEND Governance to the Next Level



GROWTH

**Date and time:** Wednesday 24 June 2026 at 18:00 –19:30 ([Book here](#))

**Who the course is for:** Experienced governors, particularly SEND Governors, who are confident in the role and looking to elevate their input to achieve a greater level of impact.

**Course description:** This session explores concepts typically used for governance beyond the education sector will be shared, including a range of practical tools that be deployed as soon as required. The governance tools will cover areas such as risk, stakeholder engagement, strategic reporting and evaluation. These will be applied in the context of SEND with the aim of further improving the quality and effectiveness of SEND governance at your school.

**Trainers:** 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

## Safeguarding (Introductory level)



ESSENTIAL

**Date and time:** Tuesday 30 June 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

## July

“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 07 July at 18.00-19.30 ([Book here](#))



NEXT STEPS

**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 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