

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GUIDE

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WELCOME

Welcome to the AGBIS Professional Development Programme 2025–2026

We are delighted to present our refreshed and expanded programme of courses and events for the 2025–2026 academic year. Developed in direct response to the evolving needs of our members, this year's offering provides a comprehensive range of professional development, networking opportunities and expert-led knowledge sharing – designed to support governors and governance professionals at every stage of their journey.

We understand that cost and time are key considerations for all schools and governing bodies. That's why we've worked hard to keep training costs low and maximise the number of events included at no additional charge within your membership. We're also increasing our e-learning provision, with revamped versions of our popular New Governors and Safeguarding courses, plus exciting new modules to follow – giving you greater flexibility to learn at your convenience.

A major highlight this year is the launch of the Governance Professionals' Programme (GPP). Starting in autumn 2025, this structured development programme is tailored specifically for Clerks, offering three progressive levels – Foundation, Intermediate and Advanced – each running over six months.

We're also thrilled to announce that our Annual Conference will take place on 19 March 2026 at the QEII Centre, London. Expect a superb line-up of speakers, engaging breakout sessions and the chance to connect with peers from across the sector.

We look forward to supporting you through another year of impactful, relevant and accessible professional development.

Ginny Parkes

AGBIS Director of Learning
and Professional Development



HOW AGILE IS YOUR GOVERNANCE?

Whether you're seeking subject-specific content or broader sector updates, our programme offers a wide range of options to meet your needs. From flexible, affordable training to tailored sessions that fit around your schedule, we have something for every stage of your governance journey.



Webinars and Seminars

We offer a full range of professional development opportunities, from short webinars – some included in your membership – to longer in-person events held at locations across the country.



Bespoke Training for Governing Bodies

Inviting one of AGBIS's highly experienced trainers to your school (either in-person or virtually) offers an easy and cost-effective way to fulfil all your governors' training requirements.



e-learning courses

Learn at your own pace, in your own time and at your own convenience. We provide e-learning courses which are free for governors of our member schools: Safeguarding and New Governors introduction.



Governance Professionals' Programme (GPP)

New for 2025-2026, the GPP is a structured and accredited professional development programme designed to support governance professionals at all stages of their careers.



Annual Conference 19 March 2026

Our flagship annual event in London offers expert speakers and sector updates; a collaborative day of networking and strategic planning where all are welcome.

EVENTS
FOR...

CLERKS

Clerks are essential to effective governance. At AGBIS, we offer tailored guidance and professional development to support Clerks in their vital roles and new for 2025 will be the launch of our accredited Governance Professionals' Development Programme for Clerks, to strengthen their personal development and practice.

CLERKS' NETWORKING GROUP



A relaxed, online meet-up for Clerks to stay connected, share experiences, and build your network.

Submit questions or topics in advance - your input shapes the conversation!

- 23 September 2025
- 4 February 2026
- 3 June 2026



INCLUSIVE GOVERNOR RECRUITMENT

Watch out for more events aimed at Clerks such as this webinar on Inclusive Governor Recruitment - 23 April 2026 at 10am

AGBIS BRIEFINGS

Included in your membership, these briefings provide regular sector updates :

- 15 September 2025
- 3 November 2025
- 9 February 2026
- 11 May 2026
- 15 June 2026



Find out
more ►

GOVERNANCE PROFESSIONALS' PROGRAMME (GPP)

AGBIS is proud to introduce the Governance Professionals' Programme (GPP), a structured and accredited professional development pathway designed specifically for Clerks. Launching in autumn 2025, the GPP supports governance professionals at all stages of their careers through three progressive levels: Foundation, Intermediate and Advanced.

FOUNDATION

Specifically crafted for Clerks at the start of their career, this course builds a solid foundation in governance essentials - from legal frameworks to effective meeting management - while developing key relationships and practical skills.

INTERMEDIATE

Designed for Clerks with 18 months to 4 years experience who are ready to deepen their understanding and enhance their strategic capabilities. This course develops key skills such as advising boards, preparing for inspections, managing complex issues and strengthening stakeholder relationships.

ADVANCED

Aimed at experienced governance professionals seeking to excel as strategic advisors and governance leaders. This course will delve into high-level governance strategy, crisis management and innovative practices for supporting boards in a rapidly evolving educational landscape.

NEW

Join the pilot cohorts of our new accredited programme in 2025-2026 at a discounted rate...

EVENTS FOR...

NEW GOVERNORS

AGBIS offers a range of webinars and seminars designed to provide a vital introduction to governance and support the smooth, effective induction of your new governors.



In-person seminars for new governors

A full day of training and networking - the perfect start for all new Governors:

October - London

February - Birmingham

April - Manchester



Subject specific webinars and seminars

Choose from a broad range of events in specific areas: Finance for the Non-financial Governor, SEND for Governors, Handling Complaints, Introduction to the School Standards and many more.



E-learning

Learn at your own pace, in your own time and at your own convenience. A New Governors' Introduction and a Safeguarding course are free for governors of our member schools.

'It was a really helpful and very well-organised session. It was also very interesting to have the chance to meet other new governors from other schools. I left feeling more confident that I could contribute as a governor - and that AGBIS had my back!'

**New Governors' Seminar
2024**



EVENTS
FOR...

CHAIRS & VICE-CHAIRS

For Chairs or Vice-chairs of Governors in independent schools, staying informed and connected is vital - AGBIS professional development and networking will empower you to lead with confidence, navigate challenges and support your board effectively.

CHAIRS' NETWORKING GROUP



A relaxed, online meet-up for Chairs and Vice-chairs to share experiences in a confidential and supportive network:

- 7 October 2025
- 10 February 2026
- 10 June 2026



SEMINAR FOR CHAIRS & VICE-CHAIRS

An in-person event featuring expert speakers, panel discussions and networking on 9 December 2025 in London

AGBIS BRIEFINGS



Included in your membership, these briefings offer regular sector updates:

- 15 September 2025
- 3 November 2025
- 9 February 2026
- 11 May 2026
- 15 June 2026

Find out
more ►



BESPOKE TRAINING FOR YOUR GOVERNING BODY

Our bespoke training is fully customisable in both content and duration. Sessions can be delivered in-person or virtually - whether you're looking to focus on key governance issues, strategy, compliance or sector-specific developments, we'll create a session that delivers real value to your Board.

- ▶ **Interactive & discussion-based**
- ▶ **Led by sector experts**
- ▶ **Tailored to your Board's needs**
- ▶ **Practical, relevant and up-to-date**

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026

19 MARCH 2026, LONDON

On 19 March at the QEII Centre, Westminster, join us for an exciting line-up of expert speakers and opportunities to participate in interactive breakout sessions designed to spark ideas and action.

This one-day event will unite Heads, Chairs, Governors and Clerks for a collaborative day of networking and strategic planning for the future, and we hope that you will be there.

AGBIS AWARDS

We will also be announcing the winners of this year's AGBIS Awards, celebrating excellence in governance across three categories:

- School of the Year
- Clerk of the Year
- Lifetime Achievement

Details of how to nominate are coming soon...



‘This was my first AGBIS conference, and I had a great experience.’

‘I thought the presenters were excellent and very inspiring.’

‘AGBIS were really impressive in their running of the day and looking after delegates.’

**Annual Conference
2025**

WEBINARS & SEMINARS

Below is our events programme for 2025–2026. More events will be added throughout the year, please visit our website for the latest information and to book your place.

EVENT	FORMAT	DATE & LOCATION
Governance Professionals' Programme (GPP)	Hybrid	Sept 2025 – Feb 2026 Hybrid
AGBIS briefing	Webinar	15 Sept, 4-5pm Online
Safeguarding refresher: how to deliver a whole school safeguarding culture	Webinar	16 Sept, 3-4pm Online
Charity law for Governors with HCR	Webinar	22 Sept, 11am-12pm Online
AGBIS/HMC Good Governance Programme: module 1: an overview of good governance with HMC	Webinar	22 Sept, 4-5.30pm Online
Clerks' networking group	Webinar	23 Sept, 10-11am Online
AGBIS Scottish seminar: legal, political and practical insights with SCIS and MFMac	Seminar	25 Sept, 10am-1pm Edinburgh
Beyond good intentions: trust, verify and lead inclusivity with All-in Education	Webinar	3 Oct, 10-11am Online
New governors' seminar	Seminar	6 Oct, 10am-4pm London
Chairs' and Vice-chairs' networking group	Webinar	7 Oct, 12-1pm Online
Governing through change: the role of governors in Mergers and Acquisitions with VWV	Webinar	10 Oct, 10.30am-12pm Online
Inspection readiness	Webinar	13 Oct, 3-4pm Online
Introduction to SEND for governors with HCR Law	Webinar	14 Oct, 11am-12pm Online
AGBIS briefing	Webinar	3 Nov, 4-5pm Online

AUTUMN TERM 2025 (cont.)

EVENT	FORMAT	DATE & LOCATION
Education for non-educationalists	Webinar	4 Nov, 3.30-4.30pm Online
AGBIS/ISBA/HMC Conference	Conference	12 Nov, 9am-4.30pm London
Reshaping the governance model for challenging times - part 1 with Dr John Newton	Webinar	14 Nov, 11am-12.30pm Online
An introduction to the Independent School Standards	Seminar	17 Nov, 10am-1pm London
AI in governance: session 1 - practical AI for governance with Sapio	Webinar	20 Nov, 11am-12.30pm Online
Good Governance Programme - module 2: governance structures and processes with HMC	Webinar	24 Nov, 3-4.45pm Online
New governors' webinar	Webinar	26 Nov, 10.30am-12.30pm Online
Handling complaints for governors with Farrer & Co	Webinar	27 Nov, 3-4pm Online
Introduction to recruitment: what governors need to know	Webinar	3 Dec, 11am-12pm Online
Chairs' and Vice-chairs' seminar	Seminar	9 Dec, 10am-3.30pm London

SPRING TERM 2026

EVENT	FORMAT	DATE & LOCATION
Good Governance Programme - module 3: roles, responsibilities and relationships with HMC	Webinar	12 Jan 3-5pm Online
Pensions webinar with First Actuarial	Webinar	13 Jan 3-4pm Online
Serious Incident reporting with VWV	Webinar	22 Jan 9.30am-4pm Online
AI in governance series: session 2 - AI and strategic oversight for governors with Sapio	Webinar	29 Jan, 11am-12pm Online
Good Governance Programme - module 4: Strategic Development Planning - Processes and Approaches with HMC	Webinar	2 Feb, 3-4.30pm Online
Clerks' networking group	Webinar	4 Feb, 10-11am Online
Reshaping governance part 2 with Dr John Newton	Webinar	6 Feb, 12-1.30pm Online

SPRING TERM 2026 (cont.)

EVENT	FORMAT	DATE & LOCATION
AGBIS briefing	Webinar	9 Feb, 4-5pm Online
Chairs' and Vice-chairs' networking group	Webinar	10 Feb, 12-1pm Online
The importance of good governance with ISA (webinar 1 of 3)	Webinar	24 Feb, 10.30am-12pm Online
AI in governance: session 3 - AI for governance in practice with Sapiو	Webinar	26 Feb, 11am-12pm Online
Good Governance Programme - module 5: strategic development planning - topical considerations with HMC	Webinar	2 Mar 3-4.30pm Online
Admissions Under Pressure: What every Governor needs to know about recruitment with RHL Consulting	Webinar	5 Mar, 2-3pm Online
Finance for the non-financial governor with HaysMac	Webinar	10 Mar, 2-3pm Online
AGBIS Annual Conference 2026	Conference	19 Mar, 9am-6.30pm London
Inclusive governor recruitment - diversifying talent and perspective with All-in Education	Webinar	25 Mar, 10-11am Online

SUMMER TERM 2026 (cont.)

EVENT	FORMAT	DATE & LOCATION
<u>Clerks' networking group</u>	Webinar	22 Apr, 10-11am Online
<u>Chairs' and Vice-chairs' networking group</u>	Webinar	28 Apr, 10-11am Online
<u>The importance of good governance with ISA (webinar 2 of 3)</u>	Webinar	29 Apr, 10:30am – 12pm Online
<u>AGBIS briefing</u>	Webinar	11 May, 4-5pm Online
<u>Clerks' networking group</u>	Webinar	3 Jun, 10-11am Online
<u>Chairs' and Vice-chairs' networking group</u>	Webinar	10 Jun, 10-11am Online
<u>AGBIS briefing</u>	Webinar	15 Jun, 4-5pm Online
<u>New governors' seminar</u>	Seminar	16 Jun, 10am-4pm London
<u>The importance of good governance with ISA (webinar 3 of 3)</u>	Webinar	17 Jun, 10.30am-12pm Online