

AGBIS / LEADERS IN GOVERNANCE

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GUIDE

26
27



WELCOME

Welcome to the AGBIS Professional Development Guide 2026–2027

We are delighted to present this year's AGBIS Professional Development Programme, carefully shaped in response to member feedback and the evolving needs of governing bodies and governance professionals. Our refreshed offering provides a flexible and relevant programme of training, events and networking opportunities, designed to support school governance at every stage. New events will be introduced throughout the year, as we respond to sector developments and member needs.

A key development this year is the launch of our new eLearning platform, offering easier access to high-quality training. Redesigned courses on safeguarding and governance in an independent school are now available free to members, providing practical, accessible learning for all governors and professionals.

Following an exceptionally positive response, the Governance Professionals' Programme (GPP) continues to grow. This accredited six-month programme is now available at both Foundation and Advanced levels, with further cohorts planned to meet increasing demand.

Our Annual Conference also returns with a new home at the British Library, continuing to be the sector's leading governance conference and a valuable opportunity to connect, share and learn.

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

Ginny Parkes

AGBIS Deputy CEO and Director of Professional Development



GOVERNANCE FOR A CHANGING WORLD

AGBIS offers a flexible and responsive programme of professional development, designed to meet the evolving needs of governing bodies and governance professionals. Whether you are looking for focused subject expertise or broader sector insight, our programme provides a wide range of options to support you.



GPP

Governance Professionals' Programme (GPP)

An accredited six-month pathway for clerks, with Foundation and Advanced levels. A sector-leading programme, it offers a unique opportunity to build expertise and strengthen professional networks.



Webinars and Seminars

A varied programme of short webinars - many included within your membership - alongside in-person events, offering practical insight and networking opportunities.



eLearning

Flexible learning through our new platform, with updated **Safeguarding** and **Governance in an Independent School** courses - free to members and suitable for all.



Annual Conference, 17 March 2027

Held at the British Library, our flagship conference is the sector's leading governance event - with expert speakers and opportunities to connect, and think strategically.



Bespoke Training

Expert-led training tailored to your school's needs and delivered in-person or online - a practical cost-effective way to support and develop your Governing Body.

GOVERNANCE PROFESSIONALS' PROGRAMME (GPP)

AGBIS is proud to offer the Governance Professionals' Programme (GPP), an accredited six-month professional development pathway designed specifically for clerks.

Following a successful launch in 2025, the programme is now delivered across two levels - Foundation and Advanced - supporting governance professionals at all stages of their careers.

Blending online sessions, in-person learning and flexible eLearning, the GPP provides a practical and engaging development experience.

FOUNDATION

Designed for those at the start of their clerking career (up to 2 years), this programme builds a strong grounding in governance essentials - from legal frameworks to effective meeting management. Participants develop key relationships alongside the practical skills and confidence needed to support their governing body effectively.

Next cohort: Sept 2026-Feb 2027

ADVANCED

Aimed at experienced governance professionals (2 years+) ready to deepen their expertise, this programme develops strategic capability and leadership skills. Focusing on advising boards, preparing for inspection, managing complex issues and strengthening stakeholder relationships, it explores high-level governance, crisis management and innovative practice in a rapidly evolving sector.

Next cohort: Jan - June 2027

[Find out
more](#) ►



*Exciting, inspiring,
immensely relevant
and immediately
applicable to the role as
clerk, this course has
changed my view of
governance as well as the
Governance Professional;
to coin a phrase from the course
- from 'Pedestrian to Dynamic'!*

GPP Advanced Graduate 2025

AGBIS / LEADERS IN
GOVERNANCE

WEBINARS AND SEMINARS

AGBIS offers a wide range of webinars and seminars designed to support both new and experienced governors. From providing a strong foundation for effective induction to offering focused, subject-specific updates, these sessions ensure all members of the governing body remain informed, confident and well-equipped.

In-person seminars for new governors



A full day of training and networking in a central London location - the perfect start for all new governors:

- Thu 8 October 2026
- Thu 21 January 2027
- Tue 25 May 2027

Subject-specific webinars



This year's programme includes webinars on a broad range of specific areas including:

- Safeguarding
- Finance for the non-financial governor
- SEND for governors
- Inspection readiness
- Education for the non-education governor

...and many more to be added during the year.

New Governors' Seminar 2025:

'...very comprehensive for a first time governor'

'Difficult to imagine how it could have been improved upon.'

AI in Governance 2026:

'Excellent presenter and content, very inspiring and helpful.'



Included
in your
membership...

NETWORKING GROUPS AND AGBIS BRIEFINGS

Networking groups are informal, supportive online discussions held via Zoom, providing a space to connect, share experiences and explore challenges with peers.

Topics are suggested in advance to shape each session. Sessions build a strong sense of community, offering peer support in your role. They are not recorded to encourage open discussion.

CHAIRS' & VICE-CHAIRS' NETWORKING GROUP



- Tue 6 October 2026
- Tue 9 February 2027
- Wed 12 May 2027

CLERKS' NETWORKING GROUP



- Wed 30 September 2026
- Wed 25 November 2026
- Thu 7 January 2027
- Mon 26 April 2027

AGBIS BRIEFINGS

Free to members and open to all, including Governors, Chairs, Clerks and anyone interested in governance. AGBIS Briefings share the latest insights and key developments from across the education sector, helping you stay informed, connected and ahead of the curve.



- Mon 14 September 2026
- Mon 30 November 2026
- Mon 8 February 2027
- Mon 17 May 2027
- Mon 28 June 2027

[Find out
more](#) ►

NEW eLEARNING COURSES

(free to members)



Learn at your own pace, in your own time and at your convenience. AGBIS is delighted to offer free eLearning courses exclusively for governors of our member schools. These courses are designed to help you build confidence and knowledge in your governance role - anytime, anywhere.

▶ **New Governor Induction**

Starting your journey as a governor? Or looking for a refresher? This course gives you a clear and practical overview of governance in independent schools.

▶ **Safeguarding for Governors**

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility - but the role of governors is unique. This course provides a comprehensive guide to child protection responsibilities at governance level, helping you understand what makes your role different from that of staff.

[Find out more](#) ▶

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2027

17 MARCH 2027, LONDON

Join us for an inspiring day at our Annual Conference, now hosted in the iconic surroundings of the British Library in London. With a dynamic line-up of speakers and interactive breakout sessions, the conference is designed to spark ideas and drive action.

This one-day event brings together Heads, Chairs, Governors and Clerks for a collaborative programme of insight, discussion and forward-looking strategy. As the leading governance conference in the sector, it remains an invaluable opportunity to network with peers and strengthen your approach to school governance.

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



'It was my first such conference and was useful in helping me to develop a greater understanding of the sector.'

'The best AGBIS conference I have attended, thought provoking and collegiate...'

'A very enjoyable day. The opportunity for networking cannot be underestimated'

Annual Conference
2026

AGBIS / LEADERS IN GOVERNANCE

12.20 – 13.05 Breakout Session 1

- A **Report Launch: The Changing Role of the C**
Mountbatten Suite, Level 6
- B **Inclusivity & Access: The Role of Tran**
Bursary Award Schemes in a Post-VA
The Rutherford, Level 4
- C **The Proprietor Must Ensure... Governan**
Inspection
The Abbey, Level 4
- D **The Governance Landscape in British In**
Schools
The Moore, Level 4

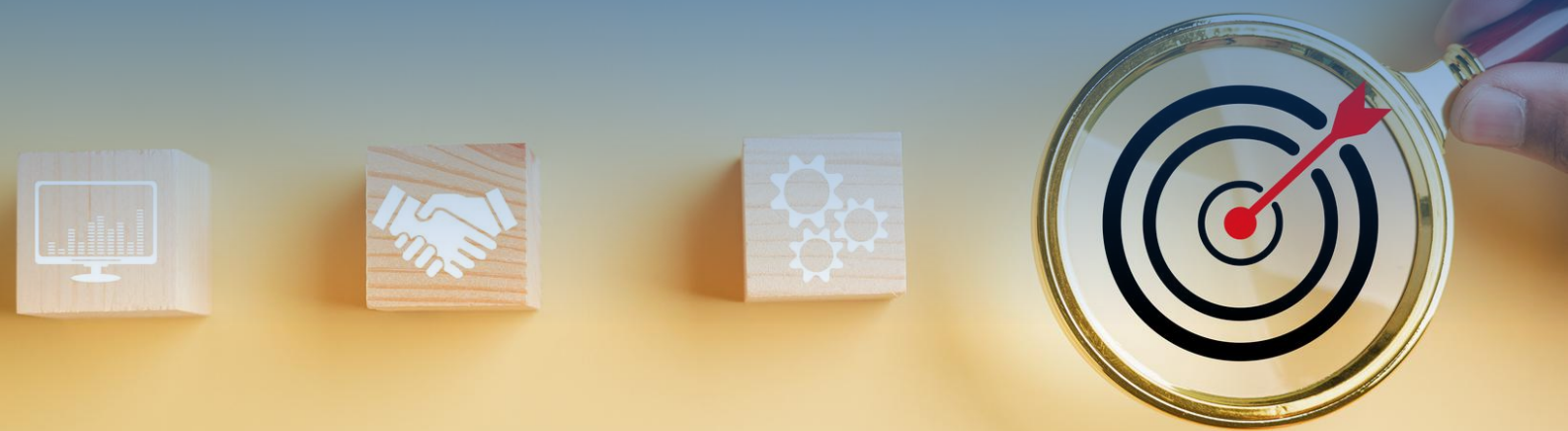
15.05 – 15.50 Breakout Session 2

- A **Report Launch: The Changing Role of the C**
- B **The New Era for SEND and Safeguarding**
The Rutherford, Level 4
- C **School as a Business – Mergers and Acquisiti**
- D **AI in Governance**
The Moore, Level 4

With thanks to our lead sponsor:

SK | **STONE KING**

BESPOKE TRAINING FOR YOUR GOVERNING BODY



Our bespoke training is designed around you - fully flexible in content, format and delivery. From governance priorities and strategy to compliance and sector developments, we create tailored sessions that deliver real impact for your Board.

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

WEBINARS & SEMINARS

Below is our events programme for 2026–2027. 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
AUTUMN TERM 2026	Governance Professionals Programme (GPP) Foundation Level	Hybrid	Sep 2026 - Feb 2027
	AGBIS Briefing	Webinar	Mon 14 Sep, 4-5pm Online
	Safeguarding update for Governors' webinar with Farrer & Co	Webinar	Wed 16 Sep, 3-4pm Online
	Clerks' networking.group	Webinar	Wed 30 Sep, 10-11am Online
	Chairs' and Vice-chairs' networking.group	Webinar	Tue 6 Oct, 9.30-10.30am Online
	New governors' seminar	In-person	Thu 8 Oct, 9.30am-4pm London
	Inspection readiness	Webinar	Fri 6 Nov, 10-11am Online
	AGBIS/HMC/ISBA Joint Conference	Conference	Wed 11 Nov London
	SEND update for governors with Stone King	Webinar	Wed 18 Nov, 11am-12pm Online
	Clerks' networking.group	Webinar	Wed 25 Nov, 10-11am Online
	Education for the non-education governor	Webinar	Mon 30 Nov, 10.30am-12pm Online
AGBIS Briefing	Webinar	Mon 30 Nov, 4-5pm Online	

EVENT		FORMAT	DATE & LOCATION
SPRING TERM 2027	Governance Professionals Programme (GPP) Advanced Level	Hybrid	Jan -Jun 2027
	Clerks networking.group	Webinar	Thu 7 Jan, 10-11am Online
	Handling complaints	Webinar	Mon 11 Jan 10.30am-12pm Online
	New governors' seminar	In-person	Thu 21 Jan, 9.30am-4pm London
	AGBIS Briefing	Webinar	Mon 8 Feb, 4-5pm Online
	Chairs' and Vice-chairs' networking.group	Webinar	Tue 9 Feb, 10 - 11am Online
	Finance for the non-financial governor	Webinar	Fri 5 Mar, 10am-12pm Online
	AGBIS Annual Conference	Webinar	Wed 17 Mar London
EVENT		FORMAT	DATE & LOCATION
SUMMER TERM 2027	Clerks' networking.group	Webinar	Mon 26 Apr, 10-11am Online
	Chairs' and Vice-chairs' networking.group	Webinar	Wed 12 May, 10-11am Online
	AGBIS Briefing	Webinar	Mon 17 May, 4-5pm Online
	New governors' seminar	Webinar	Tue 25 May, 9.30am-4pm London
	AGBIS Briefing	Webinar	Mon 28 Jun, 4-5pm Online

AGBIS / LEADERS IN GOVERNANCE



01438 840730



events@agbis.org.uk



www.agbis.org.uk