



Governors
for Schools
Conference
2023.



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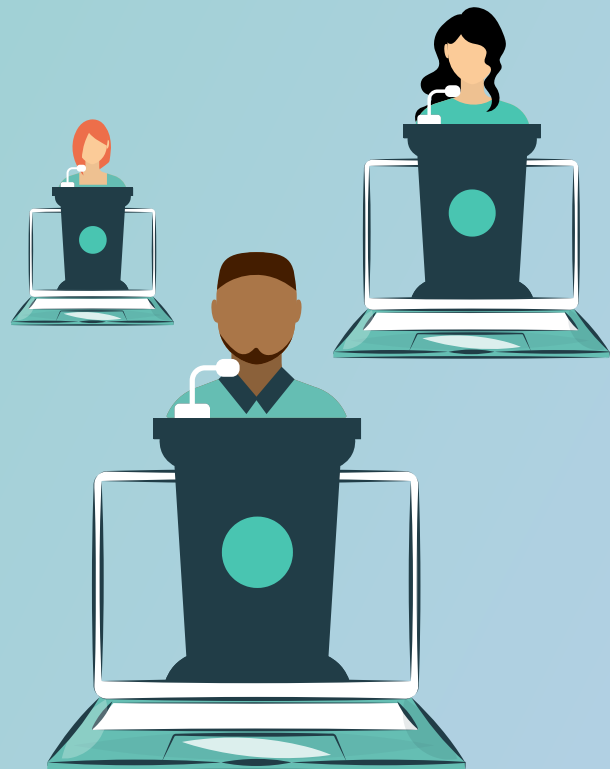
Governors for Schools Conference 2023 Programme

Day 1

Tuesday, 26th
September 2023

Day 2

Wednesday, 27th
September 2023



A word from our CEO, Hannah Stolton



“We’re delighted to welcome you to the Governors for Schools Conference 2023. Generously sponsored by the Institute of Physics’ (IOP) Limit Less campaign, this year’s conference will focus on a wide range of issues affecting today’s education landscape, from maintaining inclusive strategies in schools to making budgets go further. Whether you’re a seasoned governor or wondering what governance is all about, we hope you enjoy plenty of educational opportunities over the next couple of days.

“Remember that attendees are welcome to join as many conference sessions as they would like. Many thanks to the IOP for helping us offer such a fantastic array of panel sessions free of charge. Based on previous feedback, we know our conference delivers valuable CPD and development opportunities to governors across the country, and we’re pleased to continue this vital work.

“To help you navigate the conference, we’ve put together some helpful information below. We also encourage delegates to refer back to our [event webpage](#) for more information about our speakers and panel topics. I do hope you enjoy the conference and look forward to engaging with some of you throughout.”



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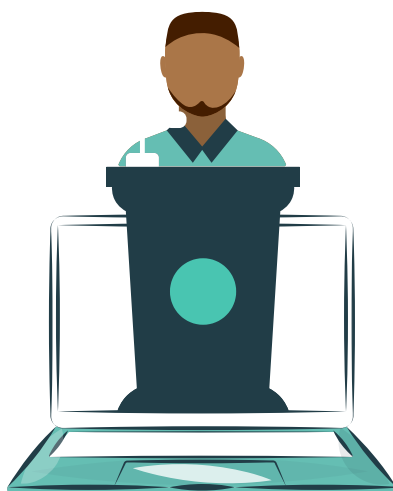


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What to expect from this year's conference



This year's timetable features a combination of panel sessions, workshops, and networking opportunities, all designed to shape a positive future for boards across the country. As well as offering insightful sessions for existing governors, we'll be hosting an outreach workshop for prospective governors looking to get involved in their local communities. We'll also be hosting a session tailored for governors in Wales and practical interactive sessions about setting a budget and taking on a position as chair.

We will provide further information about our networking opportunities during individual panels. You can also get to know other delegates via social media, using the hashtag #GfSConference2023. We'll be live tweeting throughout the day and encourage everyone to get involved with online discussions. Finally, we encourage you to spread the word among your friends and colleagues – the more people we can get excited about governance, the better!



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Limit Less campaign

Limit Less is the campaign started by the Institute of Physics (IOP) to support young people to change the world and fulfil their potential.



IOP launched the Limit Less campaign to ensure that in every place and space where children and young people are exposed to limiting attitudes about what is right for them – because of where they're from, what they look like, or who they are – there is a counter story working to champion them.

[Click here to learn more about the **Limit Less** campaign](#)



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1

Timetable

Tuesday, 26th September 2023

08:00 – 09:00: The case for inclusion

Our inaugural conference session will discuss the importance of inclusion in education and governance. What is inclusion? Why does it matter within governance? And how can you ensure your school maintains inclusive strategies? Join us to find out.

09:15 – 10:15: Good governance in 2023

Our 'Good governance' session is designed to provide governors in England and Wales with examples of best governance practices, as well as offer handy tips for making a positive impact in your school. Join us for up-to-date insights and the chance to get your governance questions answered.

10:15-10:30: AM Coffee Break / Morning Networking

10:30 – 11:30: Teacher retention in schools

Many schools are struggling with retention. Join Education Support CEO Sinead McBrearty for an update on the key findings of their recent commission on teacher retention.

11:45 – 12:45: STEM skills – Where now?

This session is a roundtable discussion focusing on STEM subjects, including possible career pathways and the opportunities and risks young people face. The webinar is ideal for governors interested in raising attainment, boosting aspirations, and whole-school approaches to inclusivity within STEM.

12:45 - 13:30: Networking Lunch



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1

Timetable **continued**

Tuesday, 26th September 2023

13:45 – 14:30: EHCPs and ILPs - What are they and why do they matter to governors?

Inclusion is about incorporating all learners' needs into educational provision. Education, health, and care plans (EHCPs) and individual learning plans (ILPs) are vital tools for achieving this aim. But what are they? Why do they matter? And what should governors know about them? This session is ideal for governors who want to learn more about EHCPs and ILPs and a must-watch for SEND link governors. Suitable for all governors/trustees.

14:45 - 15:00: PM Coffee Break / Afternoon Networking

16:00 – 16:45: Alternative Provision and PRUs - What are they and why do they matter to governors?

Alternative provision (AP) settings and pupil referral units (PRUs) are vital educational resources for some learners. Does your school access an AP provider? Do you know what to ask your board when it comes to accessing AP for learners? What is a PRU and what does it offer learners? This session is ideal for governors looking for an introduction to these two pathways. Suitable for governors/trustees in England and Wales.

17:00 – 17:45: Why your company needs a school governor network

Why should school governance matter to your company? This session will explore how your organisation could benefit from a partnership with Governors for Schools, including the CPD opportunities your staff will access. Join us to find out more about how we can support your organisation. Ideal for corporate social responsibility practitioners.

18:00 – 19:00: Becoming a governor with Governors for Schools

An outreach workshop for prospective governors. This session will demonstrate the range of support on offer with Governors for Schools and introduce you to the community of which you'll become a part if you volunteer. Suitable for prospective governors interested in volunteering in schools. Ideal for prospective governors or those interested in volunteering in schools.



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2

Timetable

Wednesday, 27th September 2023

08:00 – 09:00: School readiness – A guide for governors

With research suggesting more and more children are not school-ready, what should your board be doing to support school leaders and prepare young pupils for their education journey? This session will explore why school readiness matters and its impact on later school engagement and performance. Ideal for all governors and trustees in England and Wales.

09:15 – 10:15: Parent and pupil voice – Roundtable

Is parent and pupil voice key to school improvement? Is your school effective in this area? Join us for a roundtable discussion from experts in the field to reflect upon your own school's practice when it comes to engaging with stakeholders. Ideal for all governors/trustees in England and Wales.

10:15 - 10:30: AM Coffee Break / Morning Networking

10:30 – 11:15: Workshop – Effective challenge

What does effective challenge look like in practice? How can you evidence its efficacy? This interactive workshop offers suggestions for effectively challenging senior leaders and recording evidence of such interactions (for the purposes of Ofsted or Estyn inspections, for example). Ideal for all governors/trustees and especially those who are not confident in challenging senior leadership teams.

11:45 – 12:45: Taking the chair

Taking the chair can be a daunting step. What can you do if you're new to chairing or are thinking of becoming a chair? What challenges do you face? How can you overcome these challenges and what does best practice look like? How can you lead an inclusive board and include all voices? This discussion-based session will cover key chair duties and responsibilities, with peer discussion and networking opportunities to build support contacts. Ideal for new or aspiring chairs, or those looking to embed a holistic support programme in their succession planning strategy.

12:45 - 13:15: Networking Lunch



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2

Timetable **continued**

Wednesday, 27th September 2023

13:15 – 14:15: Peer support – Setting a budget during times of difficulty

This session provides practical tips for effective budget management, with suggestions for grants, sources of income, and creative tips for making budgets go further. The webinar will include interactive elements, sharing ideas and session polls. The key takeaway will be an action plan/budget audit document. Ideal for governors who want to learn from peers, consider and reflect upon their own budget practices, and consider new ways of thinking.

14:30 - 14:45: PM Coffee Break / Afternoon Networking

16:00 – 16:45: The case for reading for pleasure in primary school

Reading for pleasure has been squeezed out of some schools. However, new research from Farshore questions whether schools can really afford to ignore the power of story-time. Ideal for primary governors interested in the potential impact reading for pleasure can have on whole school attainment.

17:00 – 17:45: Wales - Setting a vision and ethos that promotes Welsh culture

How can your governance foster a positive and inclusive ethos that promotes Welsh culture? What does success look like in this area? Join us to find out more! This session is suitable for governors in Wales who want to learn more about creating an inclusive vision and promoting Welsh culture and identity in schools.

17:00 – 17:45: What the sector needs to ensure boards are fit for purpose

In this session we will consider what the education sector needs to ensure that their governing boards are fit for purpose and able to support school challenges and improvement for the future. We'll share thoughts on what makes an effective governing board and welcome thoughts from the audience to establish the future direction needed.

18:00 – 19:00: Board diversity

Roundtable discussion exploring what is next for diversity in the sector. What are the challenges? How can we tackle such challenges and how can governors adapt their practices to promote diversity? Ideal for governors/trustees in both England and Wales.



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Limit Less sponsors conference to spread the word about whole-school equity

The Limit Less campaign is sponsoring this year's Governors for Schools Conference in September, to promote inclusion and dismantle the barriers preventing many young students following their chosen paths.

The free two-day conference is for everyone interested in school governance and we're keen to talk about the role governors can play in whole-school approaches to equity and inclusion, which involve an entire school community working together to dismantle the barriers students face and ensure equal opportunity for all.

This planning ensures fairness and accessibility and means decisions can be tested, and discriminatory language and behaviour challenged – and ultimately helps young people feel safe and respected.

Governors for Schools is a charity whose goal is to make sure all schools can benefit from a robust and diverse board and via the conference they provide committed volunteers with a content-rich event that will inform their practice and improve their knowledge around key issues affecting the education sector.

“The conference will offer insights from a range of experts, covering pressing topics such as good governance in 2023, whole-school approaches to inclusion, STEM education, effective challenge as a governor, and much more.”



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Limit Less sponsors conference to spread the word about whole-school equity **continued**

Too many young people are held back by the biases and prejudices of others when it comes to their education, training and careers. Their choices are influenced and undermined by preconceived ideas about gender, ethnicity and other aspects of their identity. Governors for Schools is passionate about supporting schools not just to educate young people but to help them become compassionate and well-rounded citizens.



The conference will offer insights from a range of experts, covering pressing topics such as good governance in 2023, whole-school approaches to inclusion, STEM education, effective challenge as a governor, and much more. The conference opens up a broad range of themes discussed by a diverse range of people and welcomes anyone interested in the way schools are run and the way boards of governors work to attend.

At a time when school budgets are particularly squeezed, we hope this free CPD event will deliver invaluable support not just to the governance community but beyond as well. The sponsorship displays a great show of unity within the sector and will help bring the event to life.

By Beth Bramley, Strategic Lead for Inclusion (Learning & Skills), IOP
12 July 2023



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Discover more about our speakers

We're delighted to welcome a diverse range of experts to this year's event. As ever, we're very grateful to everyone for giving their time to take part in panels and workshops. Your generous support has helped us deliver a premium agenda designed to support from across the governance landscape.

Speakers this year include:



Mariam Adejokun
ReachOut2All CIC



Reena Anand
Reena Anand Ltd



Steve Barker
Better Governor



Dr Alex Brabbs
Institute of Physics



Neil Collins
GovernorHub



Alison David
Farshore

[Click here for full speaker list](#)



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Discover more about our speakers **continued**

We're pleased to invite a wide range of voices to our Governor for Schools Conference 2023, to ensure the sessions are informative, engaging and representative. [Find out which sessions our speakers are involved in via our website.](#)

Speakers this year include:



Stephanie Hamilton
ImpactEd



Dr Hillary Jones MBE
The School and
Nursery Milk Alliance



Siân Lewis
Parentkind



Jeff Marshall
J & G Marshall Ltd



Sinéad Mc Brearty
Education Support



Setul Metha
GLF Schools

[Click here for full speaker list](#)



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Discover more about our speakers **continued**

Our Governor for Schools Conference 2023 speakers have great knowledge and experiences in their fields of expertise. [Visit our website to find the full lineup of speakers and learn more about each person.](#)

Speakers this year include:



Callum Perry

City College Norwich



Carole Phillips

Kidscape



Jimmy Pickering

The Brilliant Club



Jamie Rogers

DiverseApply



Dan Rouse

Townley Grammar school



Sharon Warmington

Education Governance
Solutions

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Here are the hosts for our sessions

We want our Governor for Schools Conference 2023 to run as smoothly as possible for you, so a member of the Governors for Schools team will be hosting each session. [Read and learn more about each host and which session\(s\) they're involved in via our website.](#)

Hosts this year include:



Hannah Stolton
CEO



Adrain McLean
Board Trustee



Emma Harris
Head of Governor
Recruitment



Will Durham
Head of Impact and
Corporate Partnerships



Loren Nadin
Senior Partnerships
Manager - South team



Charlie Western
Senior Partnerships
Manager - North team



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Here are the hosts for our sessions **continued**

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Hosts this year include:



Emma Hawker

Impact and Training
Manager



Olivia Hinds

Brand and Digital
Marketing Manager



Emma Gregory

Board Trustee



Clare Skinsley

Partnerships
Manager



Anthony Melia

Partnerships
Coordinator



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How will the conference work?

All sessions will take place virtually via Zoom. Once you've identified which session(s) you want to join, you'll need to sign up to each individual session to obtain a unique access link. Once you've signed up, you will receive the link via email, which you will need to click or paste into your browser. If the Zoom app is not installed on your PC, you will be prompted to download it after clicking on a meeting link. Joining via the app will offer the best user experience, and it only takes a few seconds to download. However, if you do not wish to download the Zoom app, you can join via your browser. Simply click Cancel when the download prompt pops up on your screen and follow the instructions on your browser. You can find more information about joining meetings on the Zoom website.

Once you have joined the Zoom webinar, you will not be visible to other regular attendees. Webinars are different from regular conference calls in that only hosts and designated panellists can share their video, audio, and screen. However, hosts can also unmute attendees when necessary. As such, you do not require a working webcam and microphone to join the sessions. If you have questions for our speakers, you can type them into the Q&A box on your screen.

NB. Networking will take place as meetings, rather than webinars. This means you will have the option to turn on your microphone and webcam. We encourage participants to turn on their microphones and cameras to make the most of the sessions and connect with likeminded delegates. We will provide more information about how to get involved with the networking sessions during the conference panels and workshops.



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Get involved

There are plenty of ways for delegates to get involved with this year's conference. Our workshops, for example, will offer interactive experiences designed to help you review your governance practices in real-time. We're also encouraging people to get involved on Twitter using the hashtag #GfSConference2023. We'll be live tweeting key information for every session on our Twitter page (@SchoolGovNet), so feel free to like, retweet, and comment throughout. As ever, your thoughts are much appreciated, and we look forward to facilitating online networking opportunities for our enthusiastic delegates!

After the event

All sessions at this year's conference will be available to watch back later. Once the conference is over, look out for an email with information about where to find these videos. Where applicable, we will also send information about accessing slides and address any questions we may not have had time to answer during the sessions

Get in touch

If you're experiencing technical problems on the day or have any questions about the conference, please get in touch at info@governorsforschools.org.uk or send a direct message via Twitter or Facebook. One of our friendly team members will be on hand to address your enquiry.



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Governors for Schools Conference 2023 Programme

Register for sessions:
governorsforschools.org.uk/governors-for-schools-conference-2023/

