



Being a Parent Governor

Academy Governors are volunteers: Governors do not need to be experts in education. The most effective Governors listen, think and ask questions. The Board of Governors works as a team and exercises its authority collectively. The day-to-day management of the school is the responsibility of the Headteacher and staff but Governors help the school to provide the best possible education for its pupils.

Parent Governors are representative parents rather than representatives of parents. They play a vital role on the Governing Body, holding the unique position of having a parental viewpoint of the school.

The purpose of the board of Governors is to provide:

- Strategic leadership of the academy trust
- Your role is to help set and embed your trust's vision and strategy, and use these to monitor how the trust and its schools are progressing towards your strategic goals
- Accountability and assurance, meaning the board has robust oversight of the operations and performance of the trust, including education, pupil welfare and finance
- You'll monitor these areas and hold trust leaders to account for performance and compliance in them

Responsibilities:

- Develop the trust's vision and strategy
- Set the trust's strategic aims and objectives
- Establish a culture of high educational standards that promotes staff and pupil wellbeing
- Make sure all pupils have access to a broad and balanced curriculum
- Monitor provision for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)
- Monitor educational performance of the trust's academies, using a range of data sources
- Ensure stakeholders (parents/carers, pupils, staff and the local community) are informed and consulted as appropriate
- Approve the budget for the academy trust and, where relevant, for academies within the trust
- Monitor and evaluate the trust's financial performance
- Approve and review trust policies, and hold staff to account for their implementation
- Ensure the trust is compliant with legal requirements, including that all statutory policies and documents are in place
- Make sure the trust complies with laws that apply to charities and companies, and with its funding agreement
- Carry out the appointment and performance management of the principal/chief executive
- Be a source of challenge and support to the principal/chief executive



- Monitor and evaluate the trust's staffing structure(s)
- Monitor health and safety in the academy/across the trust

Skills and experience

Essential: Critical listening and ability to ask effective questions Strategic thinking Excellent communication Problem solving and analysis	Desirable: Understanding of data Finance and/or accounting knowledge HR experience Knowledge of education Leadership and management skills Risk management skills Legal expertise, particularly knowledge of charity law Marketing and communications skills
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Benefits to you:

- An insight into the wider perspective of the school through long-term planning
- The opportunity to work with our team of governors and staff in improving our school
- Training to develop an understanding of specific school management issues
- A sense of achievement in making a difference to our school and our community
- The pleasure of playing an active part in the welfare and learning of our pupils

Time commitment

All Governors are expected to attend at least 3 meetings of the full board per year. The term of office is 4 years. We ask that our Governors sit on a committee and become a link Governor for an area they have knowledge of, or are particularly interested in – for example, the finance committee or the SEND link Governor. Committees generally meet up to 3 or 4 times a year. Meetings tend to be held on Thursdays and start at 4.30/5.00pm they last 1½ - 2 hours.

Preparation for meetings includes reading papers and preparing questions for senior leaders. New governors are strongly encouraged to attend a foundation course, which covers the key points of being a governor. You will also be expected to undertake any training required to enable you to discharge your role effectively.

Additional information

Academies are both charities and companies limited by guarantee. Academy Governors are therefore both charity Governors and company directors and must comply with company and charity law. You will be registered as a Governor with Companies House and the Charities Commission and on the Government Information About School Website