



Becoming a governor

Governors in academies and schools are people who want to make a positive contribution to children's education. The role of the academy board is absolutely key to the effectiveness of our academies. Time and time again Ofsted has noted that the most effective academies and schools demonstrate effective leadership and management - including the academy board.

The academy board is responsible for a wide range of matters, with three core functions:

- setting the vision and strategic direction of the academy
- holding the senior leaders to account for its educational performance
- ensuring financial resources are well spent

Key roles and responsibilities

- provide strategic leadership and accountability.
- set the aims and objectives for the academy
- set the policies and targets for achieving those aims and objectives
- be accountable for the academy's performance
- set and monitor the school's budget
- be a source of challenge and support to the senior leaders

The benefits of your involvement

Being an academy governor is a hugely rewarding form of voluntary work. It offers the opportunity to make a real contribution to the education of our younger generation right at the cutting edge.

In return for the commitment that all our governors make, they benefit from:

- making a real difference for our children
- contributing to the local community
- ongoing in-house and external training
- access to governance resources
- personal development
- contributing to the success of the academy and its students
- sense of achievement
- working as part of a team
- gaining expertise in new areas
- understanding the education system

What we ask from our governors

Governors offer their time voluntarily. In terms of time commitment, becoming a governor of an academy will mean that you 'sign up' for a period of four years.

Each year you will be expected to attend four meetings per annum, and additionally sit on one portfolio committee which take place twice a term. All meetings usually take place in the late afternoon or early evening.

All governors are linked to a faculty or specialism, drawing on their own experience or knowledge forming a close link and becoming more involved with its activities. As part of their role link governors are expected to arrange a visit once per term, and provide a short report for the portfolio.

Who can be a governor?

Local academy boards within our multi-academy trust consist of governors from all walks of life, falling into one of a number of categories; parent governors (also open to grandparents and foster carers), staff governors, governors appointed by the board, and diocesan governors (in a religious designated academy).

To be eligible as a governor you must be over 18 years of age and not have been declared bankrupt. There are no particular qualifications or requirements other than a willingness to give time to the role, a capacity for working with other people and a desire to ensure that all children receive the best possible outcomes.

Any particular skills or experience will be utilised wherever relevant, to enable the academy to benefit from this knowledge for the benefit of our pupils, students, staff and community.

If you are interested in finding out more about becoming a governor within one of our academies, please contact us to find out more about how to apply.

Contact Alison Elway, Head of Governance Services

Email: aelway@dalp.org.uk