

Future Academies

Local Governor Role Descriptor

Local Governors work together to carry out their core functions:

1. ensuring there is clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
2. building productive relationships with the Principal and Senior Leaders;
3. holding the Principal to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils
4. ensuring the voices of stakeholders are heard.

Local Governors must also ensure that the Local Governing Body (LGB) complies with the Scheme of Delegation, Terms of Reference and the decision making framework. Local Governors should seek the advice of the clerk to the LGB, or the Trust's Governance Lead as appropriate.

Local Governing Body strategic responsibilities

LGBs work closely with Principals, senior leaders and senior executives of the Trust. Principals are responsible for day to day management whereas the role of the LGB is strategic. As such, Local Governors are responsible for:

- determining the mission, values and long-term ambitious vision for the school
- working with senior leaders and executives to develop a strategy for achieving the vision
- ensuring that parents, pupils, staff and the wider community are involved, consulted and informed as appropriate
- ensuring that all pupils have access to a broad and balanced curriculum such that pupils are well prepared for the next stage of their education and adult life

Monitoring and evaluating school performance

Local Governors must monitor the priorities that have been set to ensure progress is being made by:

- measuring the school's impact and progress towards its strategic objectives
- ensuring the required policies and procedures are in place and the school is operating effectively in line with these policies
- evaluating relevant data and feedback provided by school leaders, trust executives and external reporting on all aspects of school performance
- asking challenging questions of school leaders in order to hold them to account
- holding the Principal to account for standards
- focused visits to the school to monitor implementation of the strategy and reporting back to the LGB (this could be in a link governor capacity)
- ensuring that there are policies and procedures in place to deal with complaints effectively

Panels and committees

When required, Local Governors are expected to serve on panels or committees in order to:

- hear staff grievances and disciplinary matters
- review decisions to exclude pupils
- deal with formal complaints

Contribution to the LGB

Local Governors should ensure that they are making a positive and meaningful contribution to the LGB by:

- attending meetings (a minimum of 3 full governing board meetings each year), reading papers and preparing questions for senior leaders in advance
- establishing and maintaining professional relationships with senior leaders and colleagues on the LGB

- getting to know the school, including visiting the school occasionally during school hours in line with the Local Governor Visits Guidelines
- undertaking induction training and developing knowledge and skills on an ongoing basis

Expenses

Local Governors should receive out of pocket expenses incurred as a result of fulfilling their role as a local governor, as set out in the Trust's Expenses Policy. Payments can cover incidental expenses, such as travel and dependency care, but not loss of earnings.