



ROLE OF THE TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees are responsible for setting the overall strategic direction and development of the Trust, to ensure that it delivers the best possible outcomes for Students. The Board also needs to ensure that the Trust is compliant with the legal and financial requirements, under agreements made with the Department for Education (DfE) and the EFSA.

Trustee's term is four years. It involves attending termly evening Board meetings as well as committee meetings.

TRUST BOARD CORE FUNCTION

Sets the strategic direction, by:

- Setting and ensuring clarity of vision, values, and objectives for the school(s)/trust
- Agreeing the school improvement strategy with priorities and targets
- Meeting statutory duties

Ensuring accountability, by:

- Appointing the Lead Executive/Headteacher/Head of School (where delegated)
- Performance managing the Lead Executive/Headteacher/ Head of School (where delegated)
- Monitoring the educational performance of the school/s and progress towards agreed targets
- Engaging with stakeholders
- Contributing to school self-evaluation

Ensuring financial probity, by:

- Appointing the CEO/CFOO/Headteacher/Head of School (where delegated)
- Setting the budget
- Monitoring spending against the budget
- Ensuring value for money is obtained
- Ensuring risks to the organisation are managed

TRUSTEE AND LOCAL GOVERNOR ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY

- Trustees understand the purpose of the Trust and the role of the executive leaders.
- Trustees accept that we have no legal authority to act individually, except when the board has given us delegated authority to do so, and therefore we will only speak on behalf of the board when we have been specifically authorised to do so.
- Trustees accept collective responsibility for all decisions made by the board or its delegated agents. This means that we will not speak against majority decisions outside the governing board meeting.

- Trustees have a duty to act fairly and without prejudice, and in so far as we have responsibility for staff, we will fulfil all that is expected of a good employer.
- Trustees will encourage open governance and will act appropriately.
- Trustees will consider carefully how our decisions may affect the community and other schools.
- Trustees will always be mindful of our responsibility to maintain and develop the ethos and reputation of our school/group of schools. Our actions within the school and the local community will reflect this.
- In making or responding to criticism or complaints Trustees will follow the procedures established by the governing board.
- Trustees will accept and respect the difference in roles between the board and staff, ensuring that we work collectively for the benefit of the organisation;
- Trustees will respect the role of the executive leaders and their responsibility for the day to day management of the organisation and avoid any actions that might undermine such arrangements;
- Trustees agree to adhere to the school's rules and policies and the procedures of the board as set out by the relevant governing documents and law
- When formally speaking or writing in our governing role Trustees will ensure our comments reflect current organisational policy even if they might be different to our personal views;
- When communicating in our private capacity (including on social media) Trustees will be mindful of and strive to uphold the reputation of the organisation

COMMITMENT

- Trustees acknowledge that accepting office as a trustee/ governor member involves the commitment of significant amounts of time and energy.
- Trustees will each involve ourselves actively in the work of the board and local governing body, and accept our fair share of responsibilities, including service on committees or working groups.
- Trustees will make full efforts to attend all meetings and where we cannot attend explain in advance why we are unable to.
- Trustees will get to know the school/s well and respond to opportunities to involve ourselves in school activities.
- Trustees will visit the school/s, with all visits arranged in advance with the Senior Executive leader/Headteacher/ Head of School and undertaken within the framework established by the governing board.
- When visiting the school in a personal capacity (i.e. as a parent or carer), Trustees maintain our underlying responsibility as a governor/trustee/academy committee member.
- Trustees will consider seriously our individual and collective needs for induction, training and development, and will undertake relevant training.
- Trustees accept that in the interests of open governance, our full names, date of appointment, terms of office, roles on the governing board, attendance records, relevant business and pecuniary interests, category of governor and the body responsible for appointing me will be published on the trust/ school website.
- In the interests of transparency, Trustees accept that information relating to / trustees/ governors members will be collected and logged on the DfE's national database of governors (Get Information About Schools).