



## BEING A LOCAL GOVERNOR WITHIN A MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

The Unity Schools Partnership is a group of schools, run by a Trust Board which has overall accountability for the finances, standards and outcomes for all its pupils. As such, the Local Governing Body is a committee of the MAT Trust board.

## WHAT IS THE ROLE OF A LOCAL GOVERNOR?

The main responsibility of a school governor is to ensure high standards of achievement for all pupils at their school.

To do this, school governors **contribute** to:

- the **strategic direction**; ensuring the school's vision and values are compatible with those of the trust and are relevant to the school community
- **holding leaders to account** for the school's and pupils' performance through challenge & support; ensuring the best outcomes for all pupils, through monitoring, dialogue and stakeholder engagement
- **monitoring the financial performance** of the school, making sure money is well spent by ensuring adherence to school, trust and statutory policy and guidance including having a financial overview.

## WHAT DOES THE GOVERNING BOARD DO?

**The governing board, working with the Head, ensures:**

- the vision and ethos of the school along with the strategic priorities and targets for the school.
- that all pupils have access to a broad and balanced curriculum.
- the school's budget, including the use of pupil premium, is well managed
- the school's staffing structure is fit for purpose.

**The governing board helps to hold leaders to account by:**

- understanding the outcomes of the school's self-evaluation, and ensuring they are used to inform priorities for the school development plan.
- considering all relevant data and feedback on all aspects of school performance.
- asking challenging questions of school leaders, such as "how will this decision impact pupils?"
- ensuring leaders have developed the necessary policies and procedures, and the school is acting in accordance with these.
- acting as link governors on specific issues; eg. safeguarding, enquiring about relevant staff, and reporting back to the governing board on the school's progress in relation to the specific issue.
- listening and reporting to the school's stakeholders: parents, pupils, staff and the wider community.

**When required, the governing board will:**

- assist with the appointment of the headteacher and other senior leaders.
- with colleagues from the Trust, appraise the headteacher, set their pay and agree the pay recommendations for other staff.
- hear the second stage of staff grievances and disciplinary matters.
- hear appeals about pupil exclusions.

**It is important to remember that the governors' role is strategic. The operational running of the school is the responsibility of the Headteacher and its senior leaders.**

**The governing board does not:**

- Write school policies.
- Undertake any audits.
- Fundraise for the school.
- Undertake classroom observations to judge the quality of teaching.
- Undertake the role of school staff.
- Have its own personal agenda

**WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF GOVERNORS?**

**Chair** – the individual that leads the governing board. They are elected every year by the governing board.

**Parent governor** – an individual who has a child of legal school age at the school and is serving as a governor. They are elected by other parents at the school.

**Staff governor** – an individual who is also a member of staff; usually elected by the staff to ensure that their views are represented on the governing board.

**Community governor** – an individual from the community who possesses the skills required by the board – they are appointed by the governing board after an interview.

**WHAT IS THE STRUCTURE OF A LOCAL GOVERNING BODY?**

Each local governor body has the following positions.

- Two elected parent governors
- Two staff governors, one being the Headteacher, the other being elected from the staff, by the staff.
- Up to five Community Governors, appointed by the Trust. One Community Governor, who is appointed by the Trust will be a senior leader from another Trust school or a member of the Central Trust Team.

**HOW ARE GOVERNING BODIES FORMED?**

**Appointment** – some governors are chosen by appointment to specific roles in relation to an area of need highlighted in the school development plan, usually by a skills-based assessment. The appointment is ratified by the Trust board.

**Election** – some positions may be filled by election through voting systems such as a ballot; this is always conducted for parent and staff elections.

The governing board should make the following information clear when running an election for parent and staff governors:

- The functions and the role of the governor
- What induction, training and development is available to governor to help fulfil their role.
- Expectations of governors in relation to a number of areas, for example, the frequency of meetings and term of office.
- Any desirable skills or experience.

**HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?**

If you are interested in becoming a Governor at Woodhall Primary School, then please contact the Chair of Governors; [hcrane@woodhallprimary.co.uk](mailto:hcrane@woodhallprimary.co.uk)