

The STAR Multi Academy Trust

Information for potential STAR Governors

March 2025



What do governors do?

Governors are volunteers who play a vital role in the strategic leadership of our schools and help to:

- Set the school's vision and strategic direction.
- Ensure high standards of teaching and learning.
- Oversee the school's finances and resources.
- Hold the school accountable for its performance.
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The STAR MAT's Local Governing Boards (LGBs) are responsible for such things as:

- monitoring their school's budget
- monitoring the progress that the children in the school are making
- setting priorities and targets for school improvement
- ensuring policies are adhered to
- supporting the Trust Board with the appointment of a Headteacher

The full list of the LGBs responsibilities is captured in the Trust's Scheme of Delegation. All decisions are made as a group, with all board members having equal rights and status.

Governors (and indeed Trustees) are not involved in the operational running of the schools. Day-to-day management of the school is the responsibility of the Headteacher. However, the LGBs are accountable to several stakeholders for the way in which the school is managed. These stakeholders include parents, pupils, the local community, OFSTED, and the Trustees of The STAR MAT.

What happens at Local Governing Board (LGB) meetings?

Currently, our LGBs have 6 full board meetings a year, each lasting up to two hours.

All decisions are decided at a meeting of the LGB, or one of its delegated groups.

The LGBs have an agenda planner to help guide their business throughout the year. This ensures that all strategic and statutory duties are covered. Governors are expected to use their skills, knowledge and experience to support and challenge the school's leadership on a range of topics, including school development, enactment of policy, and financial probity.

Who can become a governor?

There is a formal list of people who are disqualified from becoming a governor and the STAR MAT have adopted these restriction as detailed in [The Constitution of Governing Bodies of Maintained Schools 2017](#).

Apart from these disqualifications, however, almost anyone over the age of 18 can apply to become a governor if they have skills and experience to offer.

You will be asked to provide two references and all governors are required to undertake a DBS check.

Categories of governor and how they are elected/appointed

The LGBs vary in size and composition, depending on the setting, but the number of governors in each category is set according to the Trust's Articles of Association. Within

STAR, all LGBs consist of the school's Headteacher, a Staff Governor, two Parent Governors (elected by the parent body, although the LGB can appoint a parent governor in certain circumstances) and a number of Trust Appointed Governors (previously categorised as Co-opted Governors). Additionally, our Church schools have governors appointed through the Diocese of York.

What time commitment is expected?

The dates for the scheduled LGB meetings are set well in advance and each meeting lasts around two hours. Governors receive the meeting papers a week in advance in ordinary circumstances and governors are expected to allocate some reading and preparation time for the meetings. This preparation ensures that meetings can focus on discussions, actions and decisions in the limited meeting time available.

Governors must be committed to getting to know their school. This will involve visiting the setting so that they can examine what goes on and should also involve attendance at events where they can meet staff and parents and be generally visible within the school community. Further to getting to know their school, governors are also expected to support the school and the LGB with formal monitoring visits, linked to school priorities, which will allow the board to assess how successfully the school's leadership is delivering local and Trust strategy.

Governors must also commit to training and professional development in their role. The Trustees have to ensure that each LGB contains people with the necessary skills, knowledge and commitment to take their school forward and maintain the highest standards of governance. This includes mandatory safeguarding and cyber security training.

Most governors serve for a four-year term of office, as defined in the Articles of Association. Governors can resign at any point during their term and can also request reappointment or to be re-elected (if still eligible) at the end of the period.

All governors are volunteers but the Trust recognises the time commitment expected is quite significant. Some employers may give 'reasonable time off' to employees so that they can undertake their duties. Individual governors would need to discuss this with their employer and establish whether or not the time off is paid.

What support do governors receive?

Governors receive support from a wide variety of sources, including ongoing support from their Chair and fellow governors. The Trust's Head of Governance and LGB Governance Support Officers can also provide advice and support on any governance matter.

The STAR MAT is a member of NGA where additional guidance is readily accessible via their online platform.

Ongoing training and development are provided through a mix of face-to-face forums and governor conferences; access to an internal governance portal filled with helpful guidance and information; and the NGA learning package for training modules to undertake at your own pace.