



THE BILLERICAY SCHOOL

CARING ABOUT SUCCESS

Governor Election Process

As set out in the Governance Handbook, all Trust Boards have three core functions:

1. To ensure clarity of the vision, ethos and strategic direction
2. To hold the Executive Leaders to account for the educational performance of the school(s) and its students and the effective and efficient performance management of staff
3. To oversee the financial performance of the school(s) and ensure that money is well spent

The role of a Governor is to support the Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team in the exercise of their duties, as well as holding them to account and acting as a “critical friend.” Governors have an important role in monitoring educational standards, ensuring that academy resources are used to facilitate the best possible outcomes for its students and are aware of all relevant matters which may impact upon the success of the academy.

Governors should ensure that boards stay accessible and connected to the community they serve and that there is always a diverse range of perspectives around the table to support robust decision making.

The elected (or, if the number of applicants standing for election is less than the number of vacancies, appointed) Governor of the Local Governing Body must be a member of the community. Any election of a Governor which is contested, shall be held by secret ballot.

The Governing Body is also a full and formal part of the trust governance structure and can;

- Support the effective operation of the Trust and its policies
- Provide support and challenge to the local (school level) executive
- Raise issues and bring risks to the attention of the Trust Board - It is important that the board listens and responds to concerns the LGBs may raise
- Provide constructive feedback to the board where a policy may not be effective in the local context, and suggest alternative approaches
- Help ensure that the Trust works as one entity, in the interests of all its schools equally

The average time commitment is two meetings per term, which equates to 6-8 hours per month (term time only), to enable an informed decision. There will also be background reading and school visits. As well as the full governing body meetings, there will also be committee meetings which governors may wish to contribute to.

Governors must demonstrate a willingness to learn skills that would help the board improve its effectiveness and address any specific challenges it may be facing.

Governors bring an important perspective, have the same responsibilities and require the same skills. Their role is to support the Governing Body. The role and responsibilities of each governor is no different from those of the other governors.

School governance allows governors to develop their skills, both personally and professionally, and governors could add the following skills and experience to their CV:

- Strategic planning
- Experience on a board
- Holding senior leaders to account
- Finance, and maintaining oversight of potentially multi-million-pound budgets
- Human resources and performance management
- Project management
- Marketing
- Communication and teamwork
- Decision making

Governors will be given the opportunity to see things from the school's perspective and gain an insight into how the school is managed. They will also gain an in-depth understanding of how decisions are made and the pressures on school leaders, while playing an integral part in decision making.