

What does a SPCMAT governor do?

Being a school governor or trustee is a challenging but hugely rewarding role. It will give you the chance to make a real difference to young people, give something back to your local community and use and develop your skills. You will also be joining the largest volunteer force in the country: there are over a quarter of a million volunteers governing state funded schools in England.

Schools need governing bodies that have a balance and diversity of knowledge, skills and experience to enable it to be effective. Ofsted (the national inspection body for schools) has repeatedly noted that the most effective schools demonstrate effective leadership and management - including by the governing body.

Anyone aged over 18 can be a governor or trustee (but there are some exceptions) and you do not need to be a parent. There is no requirement for you to have an understanding of the education system, just the necessary skills, character and time to contribute. There is plenty of training available to help you learn about education. Schools needs and benefit from a range of professional knowledge on their governing body including education, finance, human resources, legal, marketing and public relations, property and estates management, and organisational change.

As a governor or trustee, you will be able to:

- Use your own experience of education and life beyond school to inform conversations
- Develop and utilise your skills in a board-level environment
- Make a valuable contribution to education and your community
- Support and challenge the school so that it improves for pupils and staff
- Bring your unique experiences, perspectives and insights in to decision-making in the interests of the school community.

(Extract taken from The Key for School Governors)

The Local Governing Body acts as a critical friend to the School and is accountable for its decisions. It plays a key role in monitoring and improving the quality of provision in the school; its relationship with stakeholders and the safety and well-being of its children and staff.



Governors' term of office shall be 3 years, and can be re-elected up to 3 consecutive terms and then must take one calendar year break. The LGB terms of reference are as follows:

- To hold at least 3 Local Governing Body meetings a year;
- To recruit new governors as vacancies arise;
- To appoint or remove the Chair and Vice Chair;
- To appoint a Whistleblowing governor;
- To appoint a DSEN governor;
- To appoint a Looked after Children governor;
- To appoint a Pupil Premium governor;
- To appoint a Collective Worship/RE governor [Church Schools];
- To appoint a Safeguarding governor;
- To appoint or remove a clerk to the Local Governing Body;
- To suspend a governor;
- To decide which functions of the local governing body will be delegated to individuals;
- To receive reports from any individual to whom a decision has been delegated and to consider whether any further action by the Local Governing Body is required;
- To receive reports from, and provide challenge and support to, the Headteacher on the quality of teaching and learning and the performance of the school;
- To participate in the school's self-evaluation processes;
- To ensure that safeguarding and health and safety of the school is robust;
- To contribute to the school development plan and its priorities;
- To make arrangements for staff disciplinary/conduct hearings;
- To contribute to the performance review of the Headteacher annually;
- To participate in the school appointments panels and ensure the school recruits the best possible staff in line with Safer Recruitment procedures;
- To devise, monitor and review the policies of the school and make recommendations to Trustees on Trust wide policies;
- To assist the Headteacher in promoting good relations with parents and the community;
- To form the student disciplinary panel in relation to serious breaches of school discipline;



- To approve the curriculum plan, being mindful of statutory requirements;
- To ensure the requirements of children with special education needs are met.

(For more details see the Scheme of Delegated Authority)

Please be prepared to accept a 10-20 hours commitment per year towards meetings, monitoring visits (during school hours) and governor training.

