

Governor, Trustee & Governor Roles & Remits

Governors

The purpose of governance is to provide confident, strategic leadership and to create robust accountability, oversight and assurance for educational performance.

All boards, no matter what type of schools or how many schools govern, have the same core functions:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction; and
- Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils and the performance of staff.

Trustees

Trustees are both charity trustees and company directors of the academy trust. The board of Trustees manages the business of the academy trust. Trustees focus strongly on the core functions of governance and oversee the financial performance of the academy trust and makes sure money is well spent. Trustees must ensure compliance with the trust's charitable objects and with company and charity law. The board of Trustees signs off the annual accounts and is responsible for adherence to the trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State. It is the Trustees who are therefore responsible for the trust's accountability to Parliament and to the Secretary of State as the Principal Regulator of academies as exempt charities.

Members

As charitable companies limited by guarantee, every trust has Members who have a similar role to the shareholders in a company limited by shares. Most notably they:

- are signatories to the articles of association which includes definition of the trusts' charitable object and governance structure;
- may, by special resolution, amend the articles of association, subject to any restrictions created by the trust's funding agreement or charity law;
- may, by special resolution, appoint new Members or remove existing Members;
- have power to appoint Trustees as set out in the trust's articles of association, and have power under the Companies Act to remove any or all serving Trustees;
- may be special resolution issue direction to the Trustees to take a specific action;
- appoint the trust's auditors and receive the trust's annual audited accounts; and
- have power to change the name of the charitable company and ultimately, end the academy trust.