



National leaders of governance: Eligibility Criteria

Clarification of terms: the terms listed below are used throughout the criteria. The use of terms is solely for ease of readability, and does not in any way imply that our assessment process does not take into account the differing contexts of those organisations that are eligible to apply.

- **DfE:** represents the Department for Education
- **School:** also represents academy, nursery, sixth-form college, University Technical College (UTC), general further education providers and colleges (GFE) and pupil referral unit (PRU)
- **Governor:** also represents trustees meaning those that sit on the board of an academy trust (who in some trusts are known as directors);
- **Governing board:** also represents the body appointed to be accountable for the management of the school, federation or trust including the board of trustees or equivalent
- **Headteacher:** also represents principal, chief executive or executive headteacher
- **Trusted commissioner of school-to-school support:**
 - Regional Schools Commissioner
 - Teaching School Council / Teaching School Alliance Head/Chair (please note, this does not include applicants own TSA)
 - Director of Children's Services (DCS) or a relevant local authority officer in your own local authority or of a school you have supported
 - Senior diocese representative
 - Sponsor of an academy, chain or trust (please note this does not include CEOs of the applicant's own trust)

Eligibility criteria for national leaders of governance (NLGs)

Criteria	How this should be demonstrated
To be considered as an NLG, you must:	
1. Have at least 2 years ¹ experience as a chair of governors in the last 5 years ² and be on the governing body of a school that meets the criteria below (6 and 7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governor is named as chair on a recent Ofsted inspection³ or confirmation from the headteacher
2. Have the skills and attributes to coach and mentor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear evidence in your application that you have the relevant skills and experience to provide one-to-one support Clear evidence in your application that you are willing to develop as a coach and mentor
3. Be able to commit to the minimum time expectation for NLG deployment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Declaration within the online application that you are able to undertake at least one deployment over the course of a year, supporting a chair of governors and his or her school
4. Have the full support from the school's governing board including a reference and a reference from a commissioner of school-to-school support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Declaration within the online application that your headteacher (or equivalent) supports the application plus a reference from a member of the governing body, and A supportive reference from a commissioner of school-to-school support (refer to full list of referees above)
Have demonstrated a strong track record and ongoing capacity to:	
5a. Lead significant and successful school improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear evidence in your application of leading school improvement within or outside your current school, and evidence that Your leadership has had a positive impact on school performance/improvement
5b. Lead and develop a governing body	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear evidence in your application of successfully leading a governing body, and Clear evidence of working effectively with the headteacher and senior leaders
To be considered as a NLG, you must be accountable for a school that is:	
6. Judged to be at least good	<p>Your schools most recent Ofsted inspection³ has judged the school to be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least good for overall effectiveness, leadership and management and teaching and learning or quality of teaching <p>Or in exceptional circumstances⁴,</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your school's most recent Ofsted inspection has judged leadership and management to be at least good and you are supporting the school's move from an Ofsted category of requires improvement or inadequate <p>Or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You have recently (within the last 12 months) moved from a school judged as at least good for overall effectiveness and leadership and management to support a school judged as requires improvement or inadequate⁵
<p>7. Demonstrate sustained high pupil performance and progress over the last 3 years⁶</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department for Education performance data shows high levels of progress and attainment for all pupils and particular groups of pupils especially disadvantaged and low prior attaining pupils⁷, and Latest performance data demonstrates that the school is above the current floor standard⁸

Eligibility criteria notes

- In exceptional circumstances, applications may be accepted from high-calibre non-chairs or chairs with at least one-years' experience as a chair of governors, at point of designation. Such exceptions will only be considered where applicants can clearly evidence the relevant experience, credibility and personal impact and meet all other eligibility criteria.
- If you are no longer a chair of governors, you must be a serving governor on a governing board.
- Ofsted inspections that will be considered are; Section 5, college inspections, independent school inspections (ISI) and School Inspection Service (SIS) inspections. Monitoring inspections will **not** be considered.
- Applicants applying under exceptional circumstances will need to demonstrate that they meet all the other eligibility criteria.
- Where NLGs are designated under exceptional circumstances for Ofsted category, we would expect the school to move out of the requires improvement or inadequate category within 18 months.
- Consistently high levels of pupil performance and progress is broadly defined by DfE as attainment and progress measures being above the national averages in each of the last 3 years (validated results), and stable or rising. Pupil's differing starting points will be taken into account and it is expected that disadvantaged pupils are also making and exceeding the expected progress compared with national figures, i.e. schools are closing the gap.
- Where a school is newly formed, and has no public examination results by which to measure the school's pupil performance and progress over 3 years, in exceptional circumstances the newly formed school may be eligible for designation. In such cases, applicants will need to demonstrate that they meet all other criteria, and we may request further evidence regarding performance and progress.
- Should the floor standards change during the application round; the new floor standard will be applied.

Notes for independent school applicants

Independent schools must have been judged good by ISI or SIS in regards to:

- the quality of the pupils' achievements

- the pupils' learning, attitudes and skills
- the contribution of teaching
- the quality of leadership and management.

Alternatively, if the school is inspected by Ofsted, then they will be required to meet the criteria outlined in the eligibility criteria for National Leaders of Governance from maintained schools.

In addition, applicants from independent schools are required to cite evidence and/or show a commitment to collaborating with and supporting maintained schools.

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