

School Governance

A policy overview

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Department for Education

High quality governance is crucial

- To children's education and life chances
- To holding heads and schools to account
- To the future of schools
- To making the most of the time invested by dedicated volunteers

Yet Ofsted find that many schools have mediocre governance

We want all GBs to operate as non-executive boards focused on three core functions – as reflected in Ofsted's inspection criteria

Core Function

Ofsted criteria for effective governance

Setting strategic direction

- clarity of vision and ethos
- engaging stakeholders
- meeting statutory duties

Creating robust accountability

- Using data to provide challenge and hold leaders to account for teaching, achievement, behaviour and safety
- strengthening school leadership, including skills of GB
- performance managing the headteacher
- contributing to school self-evaluation and evaluating GB's impact

Ensuring best use of financial resources

- solvency and effective financial management
- use of Pupil Premium and other resources to overcome barriers to learning

A range of policy objectives underpin this vision of more 'professionalised' school governance

1. **Inform**: Improve information, data and guidance for governors
2. **Re-model**: Create greater freedom for more effective models of governance
3. **Recruit**: Attract more higher-quality governors with the skills GBs need
4. **Build capacity**: Improve training and support to increase GBs' effectiveness
5. **Sharpen accountability**: Inspect and intervene to judge and improve performance

We want governors to be informed about the nature of their role and responsibilities, and about their schools

Clear policy framework

- **Governors' Handbook and Academies Financial Handbook**
- **Roles, Procedures and Allowances regs and Departmental Advice**
- **Draft revised statutory guidance on 2012 Constitution regulations**

Good school performance data

- **Ofsted dashboard, and new shorter RAISE online Summary report**
- **New data warehouse and portal from 2015 for all DfE data**

We are creating a more flexible legal framework to enable but not mandate better models of governance

At school level

We want GB constitution to focus more on skills

- Consultation on changes to 2012 Constitution regulations
- Considerable freedom for academies – transition to academy status key opportunity to review GB structure and membership

Across groups of schools

We want to enable more effective governance structures

- Federation and Collaboration regulations for maintained schools
- Flexibility of MAT and UT structures for academies
- New NCTL guidance on governance in MATs and Federations

We want to attract more high quality governors

SGOSS

- Funding committed to 2015 to enable growth in free service to schools, academies and LAs

Employers

- Working with partners to plan campaign to engage more employers to support staff to volunteer as governors

Recognition

- Always looking for high quality honours nominations

We are increasing our support to GBs

NLGs

- 300 National Leaders of Governance by March 2014

National College Training and Development

- Chairs leadership development programme – 2,300 by 2014
- New training programme for clerks – 2,000 by 2015
- Training workshops for governors – on Teachers' PRP, RAISEonline, and financial efficiency available in 2014

GovernorLine

- New contract in place by March 2014

We are working with Ofsted to make sure under-performance is identified and addressed

Inspection

- Explicit focus on governance in every inspection report
- External reviews in all 'RI' schools, with robust monitoring of impact
- NCTL guidance on external reviews being updated

Intervention

- Warning notices and IEBs
- Termination of academy funding agreements
- Help for failing schools to find high quality academy sponsor

Look out for...

- Department Advice on Roles, Procedures and Allowances regulations
- Consultation on Constitution regulations
- Campaign to engage more employers
- New NLGs designated in your area
- New NCTL workshops and updated guidance on external reviews

For more information please visit
www.education.gov.uk/governance

Questions or comments can be sent to
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Department for Education