



Department for Education

**Catherine McKinnell MP
Minister for School Standards**

2 June 2025

Dear Chair,

This Volunteers' Week, it gives me great pleasure to thank you and your board for all that you do for your trusts and school(s).

I have been fortunate to witness the tremendous work being done by governors and trustees first hand. Your role in ensuring strong and effective governance is key to driving up school standards, and contributes to our ambition that every child, whatever their background, can achieve and thrive at school. You willingly give up your time and take on significant responsibilities, on a wholly voluntary basis, for the benefit of the children.

Volunteers' Week is a great opportunity to recognise and celebrate the vital contribution that you and the board are making to the achievement of this ambition.

My department is engaging proactively with a range of representative bodies in the sector to seek to make your jobs easier by identifying and sharing the most effective practice. We will spotlight the innovative approaches to minimise workload and enhance the impact you can make to ensure that school and trust governance remains an appealing and fulfilling volunteering experience.

Thank you again for your commitment to public service; it is very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

**Catherine McKinnell MP
Minister for School Standards**