

# Become a School Governor



July 2024



## Become a School Governor

*“There are immediate and lasting benefits to becoming a school governor. In volunteering your time, you are making a positive contribution to the success of the school you serve, and are therefore having a real impact on the lives of its pupils, staff and the local community.”*

Watch: [Why become a governor – two minute video](#)



## About the Trust

The Faringdon Learning Trust is a state-funded family of primary and secondary schools, comprised of five community schools and four Church of England schools, all based in and around Faringdon in the South Oxfordshire area. Each school has its own Local Governing Committee, or LGC, with between six and 12 governors apiece.



## Governor Vacancies

We currently have a number of vacancies for director-appointed governors in our primary schools and our one secondary school. The term 'director-appointed' simply refers to governors that are appointed by the Trust, rather than through parent or staff elections. Regardless of type, all governors have exactly the same responsibilities.

When you contact us, we will tell you exactly which schools have vacancies at the time and discuss which might be best for you.

A governor must be age 18 or over, but aside from this legal requirement we welcome interest from all persons and will not discriminate on grounds of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation.

## What does the LGC do?

The LGC has three core functions:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction for the school
2. Holding the Headteacher to account for both the educational performance of the school and the performance management of staff
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent

The Headteacher is responsible for the organisation, operations, management and control of the school, and for the implementation of the strategic plan agreed with the LGC.



## Do I need education sector experience or have children at the school to be a governor?

Absolutely not. Most of our governors don't have children at the school they serve and few have a background in education. That said, if you happen to have experience in the education sector it will be valued by your LGC.

Regardless of your background, you do need to be committed to the school you serve and willing to ask questions and offer appropriate challenge and support to the Headteacher.

As well as the support you'll get from fellow governors, the Trust runs a rich programme of induction and training, and our governance team will provide you with information, tools and ongoing support.

## How much time would I have to commit?

Governors are expected to attend circa six evening meetings of the LGC each year. These typically last around two hours each. In addition, the Trust runs governance development sessions on about four evenings each year and we encourage all governors to attend as many as possible; these events are a great way to network with governors from other schools, learn about new ideas and receive training in governance matters. Other time commitments will depend on whether you step up to additional roles on the LGC, which could, for example, see you visiting the school on a normal school day to perform monitoring.



### DID YOU KNOW?

IF YOU'RE AN EMPLOYEE, YOU MAY HAVE THE RIGHT TO ASK FOR TIME OFF TO FULFIL SOME OF YOUR SCHOOL GOVERNOR ACTIVITIES.

WE CAN HELP IF YOU WANT GUIDANCE ON THIS.



## Ok, I'm interested. What next?

As a first step, please contact Vicky Roberts, Head of Governance, for an informal chat on the phone. Vicky will be able to answer your questions, give you specific details about current vacancies and describe the joining process should you want to take it further.

Contact Vicky: [vroberts@vale-academy.org](mailto:vroberts@vale-academy.org) or 07483 370937

Visit our website to learn more about the Trust and our schools.



Thank you, and we hope to hear from you!

