



## Local Governor Role Description

Ivy Learning Trust is a multi-academy trust directly accountable to the Secretary of State for Education for its schools, through its Board of Directors (Trust Board). The Trust Board has established a Local Governing Body (Local GB) for each academy (school) within the Trust, to which some responsibilities are delegated.

The primary role of the LGB is to provide support and challenge to the Headteacher in ensuring every child makes good or better progress and that parents and carers are fully involved in their child's education. To maximise the ability of the local governors to focus on this key area, the Local GB is not required to manage financial resources, staffing, Health and Safety or many of the other areas traditionally associated with a maintained school governing body as these issues are dealt with at Trust Board level.

Local Governors are expected to:

1. Contribute to the strategic direction of the school by contributing to discussions at Local GB meetings which consider:

- Securing, maintaining and improving educational standards
- Reporting to the Trust Board on the overall performance of the school and specifically on any aspects of concern either to the Local GB or to the Trust Board
- Monitoring of educational outcomes in the school
- Monitoring all aspects of safeguarding, SEN, equality and pupil welfare
- Liaising with the Trust Board, Trust Leader and Headteacher on all aspects of procedure and policy setting as they may respectively require
- Complaints relating to the school

2. Hold the senior leaders to account by monitoring the school's performance: this includes:

- agreeing the outcomes from the school's self-evaluation and ensuring they are used to inform the priorities in the school's improvement plan;
- considering all relevant data about a school's performance;
- asking challenging questions of leaders;
- ensuring senior leaders have implemented the required policies and procedures and the school is operating effectively according to those policies; and
- acting as a link governor on a specific issue, making relevant enquiries of the relevant staff, and reporting to the Local GB.

3. When required, and depending on the category of Local Governor, to serve on panels of the Trust to:

- appoint staff in the school; and
- hear discipline, admissions and appeals cases

4. Follow the principles and commitments set out in the Trust's relevant Code of Conduct.

The role of a Local Governor is largely a challenge and scrutiny role; they do not manage a school day-to-day, but are required to oversee its long-term development in conjunction with the Trust.

5. Knowledge and skills:

Local GBs rely on a variety of experiences and perspectives. No specific prior knowledge is required, and volunteers have a range of skills and backgrounds. Training and support is available for new and existing Local Governors and is free of charge.

6. Time commitment:

The average time commitment is 10-15 hours per term. This includes meetings, background reading and visits.

Under Section 50 of the Employment Rights Act 1996, if you are employed, then you are entitled to 'reasonable time off' to undertake public duties: this includes school governance. 'Reasonable time off' is not defined in law and you will need to negotiate with your employer how much time you will be allowed.

7. Term of appointment:

The normal term of appointment is four years. However, as a volunteer you can resign at any time if your circumstances change.

8. Safeguarding:

Ivy Learning Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. ['Keeping Children Safe in Education'](#) sets out a number of safeguarding checks which must be carried out for all governors