

**Local Governors:** There is no legal requirement for multi-academy trusts to establish Local Governing Bodies however the OWN Trust values and respects the work local governors do for their schools and is committed to maintaining and supporting Local Governing Bodies (LGBs).

Everyone involved in governance at The OWN Trust commits to the Nolan seven principles of public life: selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership. This is reflected in our code of conduct which applies at all levels of governance.

Local Governing Bodies are composed of:

1. Two elected parent local governors<sup>i</sup>
2. One elected staff local governor
3. The Headteacher
4. The remainder of the local governors are appointed by the Trust Board.
5. The maximum size of LGBs is normally 12, however if there is a need to strengthen the LGB, or where additional Local Governors are needed to provide balance to the membership of the LGB, this can be exceeded for a period of time.
6. All appointments are for a period of four years.

All Local Governors, whether appointed or elected, are of equal standing. The Local Governing Body is a corporate body, and Local Governors have no individual responsibility or individual authority except where it has been specifically delegated to them.

Elected Local Governors are chosen from the stakeholder group that elected them (ie they are parents or staff), but they are not there to represent these groups specifically or exclusively.

Every school has policies and procedures in place to handle parental complaints, safeguarding concerns, staff grievance etc. It is not the role of Local Governors to bring such matters to the LGB. It is the role of senior leadership to refer such matters to the LGB where/when necessary.

Local Governors' core duties:

1. Ensuring all the children in our care are safe, well and happy, by acting as their 'champion'.
2. Ensuring we are doing all we can so that each and every child in the school has access to a good education and is supported so they can reach their full potential.
3. Being a voice for pupils, staff and parents.

4. Representing the school in the community and representing the community in the school.
5. Making recommendations to the Trust about what is best for the school and its pupils.
6. Working with the school and Trust to build and manage the school's budget.
7. Monitoring the curriculum, attendance and educational standards in the school.

How do Local Governors exercise their duties?

1. The Local Governing Body meets a minimum of three times per year.
2. Local Governors visit the school to inform themselves about the circumstances and context of the school, and to see for themselves how strategies, priorities, and policies are applied on an operational level. Local Governors are encouraged to visit the school often, both for formal (link) visits and informal visits (assemblies, performances etc)
3. Local Governors may be linked to a subject, year group, Key Stage, development area or statutory responsibility. Such links may include, but are not limited to: Safeguarding; SEND; finance; core subjects (English, Maths, Science); Pupil Premium; Children in Care; School Council etc. Link roles are reviewed annually at the first Local Governing Body meeting of the academic year.
4. Local Governors work closely with the leadership team.

Further information on the role of Local Governors can be found in:

- The Governance Handbook  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/governance-handbook>
- OWN Trust Scheme of Delegation
- OWN Trust Articles of Association (articles 85-89)

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<sup>i</sup> If the number of candidates standing for election is less than the number of vacancies, the Trust may appoint an eligible person (parent, or individual exercising parental responsibility at this or another school in the Trust) to fill any remaining vacancy/vacancies.