

# The role of a school governor

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Angela Langford – Head of Governor Support



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Champions for children and families

# Governing board's core functions

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

# Effective governance guidance:



## **Governance handbook**

**For academies, multi-academy trusts and maintained schools**

**January 2017**



## **A Competency Framework for Governance**

**The knowledge, skills and behaviours needed for effective governance in maintained schools, academies and multi-academy trusts**

**January 2017**

# Six key features of effective governance:

1. **Strategic Leadership** that sets and champions vision, ethos and strategy
2. **Accountability** that drives up educational standards and financial performance
3. **People** with the right skills, experience, qualities and capacity
4. **Structures** that reinforce clearly defined roles and responsibilities
5. **Compliance** with statutory and contractual requirements
6. **Evaluation** to monitor and improve the quality and impact of governance

# People with the right skills, experience, qualities and capacity who:

- understand the purpose of governance and the role of non-executive leadership and have all the necessary skills, as outlined in the department's Competency framework for governance, to deliver well;
- include an effective chair and vice-chair with the ability to provide visionary strategic non-executive leadership;
- provide sufficient diversity of perspectives to enable robust decision making;
- are recruited through robust and transparent processes against a clear articulation of required skills which are set out in a role specification;
- use active succession planning to ensure the board, and the whole organisation, continues to have the right people and leadership it needs to remain effective
- employ a professional clerk, and as necessary a company secretary, to provide expert advice and guidance and to ensure the efficient and compliant operation of the board.

# AfC Governor Support

## Providing support, advice and training:

- Comprehensive CPD schedule for Governors – face to face / online
- Online, telephone and email advice and support on any governance issue
- Weekly, monthly and termly communications
- Clerking support

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**Thank you for your interest in  
becoming a governor**

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