

Governance Programme 2023-2024

For 2023/24 Learners First has continued its partnership with the National Governance Association (NGA) to offer a range of professional development opportunities for governors, members, trustees and clerks to develop their knowledge and skills and to discuss and share practice, aligned to the three core functions of governance as set out by the DFE in the Governance Handbook.

Online workshops

A series of online workshops is available, each delivered and facilitated by a quality-assured NGA consultant with relevant governance and training expertise. Learning will be interactive with a mixture of participant activities and facilitator-led explanation and discussion. Participants will be able to share their concerns, challenges and experiences learning from each other and their facilitator.

The programme will be supported with comprehensive session materials including a toolkit of resources and suggested activities to help with next steps.

e-Learning – NGA Learning link

In addition to the online workshops, Governors of Schools and Directors of Trusts subscribing to Learners First in 2023/24, have access to The National Governance Association (NGA) 'Learning Link' which provides flexible e-learning to over 60 e-learning modules, available via secure access 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The e-learning modules are accessible via desktops, tablets and smartphones and enable learners to track progress, revisit content and pick up learning where you left off.

The modules are interactive, using relevant scenarios to make learning effective and engaging and cover key areas of governance such as: **structures, roles and responsibilities** (understanding school/MAT structures and governance expectations); **good governance** (improving the effectiveness of governing boards, conducting visits to schools, Ofsted inspections and succession planning); **Vision, ethos and strategic direction** (shaping strategic direction, risk management, evaluating effectiveness and governor/trustee roles in school improvement); **Pupil success and wellbeing** (core purpose: the quality of education provided to pupils); **Collaborating with partners** (key partners and stakeholders, how to develop relationships with them, and how engagement with stakeholders can lead to better outcomes for pupils).

Governance Programme 2023-2024

An introduction to local governance in a multi academy trust

5.00pm – 7.00pm, 15th January 2024 (session 1 of 2)

5.00pm – 7.00pm, 29th January 2024 (session 2 of 2)

For those new to MAT local governance or local governors seeking a refresher, this short, two workshop programme equips participants with the essential knowledge and understanding to make an early impact. The programme includes follow-on activities and signposting to allow participants to build their understanding of their specific roles and responsibilities, how good governance works at school level in their particular MAT, and how to make more confident contributions as they get their feet under the governance table.

At the end of this short programme, you should have a general knowledge of:

1. Multi academy trust governance
2. The respective roles of members and trustees
3. Good governance behaviours
4. The principles and characteristics of effective governance
5. How to determine the specific role and responsibilities of your local governing body
6. Schemes of delegation and terms of reference
7. Determining your own role
8. What it means to be strategic
9. How to hold leaders to account – question and challenge
10. Effective monitoring and reporting
11. Community engagement and local governance

Completion of the recommended post session activities will allow you to apply what you have learned to your own governance practice to become a more confident local governor.

Course registration

Registrations for this course are available via an online form on the Learners First Governance webpage

<https://www.learnersfirst.net/governance-development/>

Governance Programme 2023-2024

Preparing for Ofsted: what governors and trustees need to know

5.00pm – 7.00pm, 24th January 2024

The prospect of an Ofsted inspection is daunting for everyone, not least for governing board members and others involved in governance who may meet with inspectors and be expected to answer questions about the effectiveness of governance and school or trust leadership. This session will develop understanding of the Ofsted framework, the inspections process and the criteria used to make judgments about a school. It clarifies the remit of staff and what can be expected from those governing and provides the opportunity for participants to explore how to respond credibly to Ofsted lines of enquiry.

This workshop will cover:

1. The quality of education – the governing board's role
2. Safeguarding - the governing board's role
3. Expectations of governing boards
4. Being prepared for inspection
5. Identifying any issues that need to be addressed prior to the inspection
6. How the inspection process works
7. Key information, documents, and guidance

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Governance Programme 2023-2024

An introduction to data and school performance measures

5.00pm – 7.00pm, 15th February 2024

There is now a wealth of data sources that governors and trustees need to be aware of. They also need to be cognisant of the extent to which the data can be analysed, as well as other means by which governors and trustees can get to know their school(s). This workshop will clarify the range of resources available to those governing, the key measures that they need to be familiar with and how they can use this knowledge effectively to feed into their core function of holding the organisation to account.

This workshop will cover:

1. The current context for governance
2. The role of those governing
3. Understanding progress, attainment and performance measurement
4. Using DFE Performance Tables
5. Inspection data summary report (IDSR)
6. Data reporting and monitoring
7. Using internal in-year data
8. Next steps

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Governance Programme 2023-2024

Understanding pupil premium and the governance role

5.00pm – 7.00pm, 27th February 2024

School leaders are best placed to assess their pupils' needs and decide how to use pupil premium funding to improve attainment. The governing board is responsible for ensuring that the spending is targeted at the right pupils and has an impact on their attainment and progress. Pupils who are targeted will include those who receive the funding, and pupils who don't but will benefit from the support/intervention that the funding is spent on.

This workshop will cover:

1. What 'disadvantaged pupils' means and the additional funding such pupils attract
2. The barriers that disadvantaged pupils face
3. The role of the governing board and its accountability for Pupil Premium
4. Contributing towards, approving and monitoring the trust or school's strategy for spending Pupil Premium.
5. Using data, information and research to support, monitor challenge the trust or school's approach to targeting Pupil Premium funding
6. Whole-school strategies that have been successful and effective.
7. What PE and Sport Funding is, what it can be used for and the governance role in monitoring school spending
8. Next steps

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Governance Programme 2023-2024

Safeguarding: an introduction to the governance role

5.00pm – 7.00pm, 18th March 2024

It is critically important that governors and trustees understand how pupils are kept safe when at school. This aspect of their role matters not least because parents and carers entrust their children to the trust or school, but also because the governing board must be able to assure that the trust or school is complying with statutory requirements and best practice. At the end of this session, participants will understand the theory and practice of safeguarding and how to fulfil the governing board's role in keeping pupils safe.

This workshop will cover:

1. What safeguarding is
2. Statutory responsibilities and Keeping children safe in education (KCSiE)
3. How schools and trusts keep children safe – a whole organisation approach
4. Fulfilling the governing board's role - meeting "strategic" safeguarding expectations
5. Online safety and the governance role
6. How to understand the strengths and weaknesses of safeguarding
7. How to monitor
8. What is expected by Ofsted and how to evidence impact
9. Next steps

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Governance Programme 2023-2024

The effective governance of SEND

5.00pm – 7.00pm, 02nd May 2024

All governing boards have legal duties in relation to pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). These responsibilities can seem daunting, leaving boards not knowing where to start. At the end of this workshop, participants should have a thorough understanding of SEND and how they can ensure that those with SEND have their needs met and make the very best progress in their school(s).

This workshop will cover:

1. What SEND is and how it is determined
2. The legislation, guidance and policies
3. A word about COVID-19 and its continuing impact
4. How SEND is funded
5. Who is responsible for what?
6. What governors need to know about the SEND population, progress and measuring impact
7. Next steps

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Governance Programme 2023-2024

Pupil exclusion panels (discipline committees): fulfilling your role

5.00pm – 7.00pm, 22nd May 2024

Sitting on an exclusion panel (also known as a discipline committee) or and being expected to ask questions, evaluate evidence and reach a sound decision, is a daunting prospect for any governor or trustee. Being required to attend a panel can be equally challenging for senior executive leaders, pupils and parents and for governance professionals acting as the panel clerk.

By the end of this session, you should have a clear picture of how a panel should work, your role in this and how to follow the process. You will be aware of the relevant law, guidance and policies that need to be followed, and should be able to participate confidently in the panel hearing, contributing to the making of a sound panel decision.

This workshop will cover:

1. Why exclusion panels are needed
2. The relevant regulatory framework
3. Principles and starting points
4. Roles and responsibilities
5. Understanding and using judicial method effectively
6. Preparing for the panel hearing
7. The panel hearing
8. Post panel hearing matters
9. Next steps

Course registration

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