



Local Governor - Role Outline

The David Ross Education Trust is a multi-academy trust directly accountable to the Secretary of State for Education for its academies, through its Trust Board. The Trust Board has established a Academy Scrutiny Committee (ASC) for each academy within the Trust, to which some responsibilities are delegated.

The primary role of the Academy Scrutiny Committee is to provide support and challenge to the Principal in ensuring every child makes good or better progress and that the Academy is achieving targets and continually improving. To maximise the ability of the local governors to focus on this key area the Academy Scrutiny Committee is not required to set strategy or policy, manage financial resources, staff performance and pay, 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 level.

Local Governors are expected to:

- 1) Contribute to the strategic direction of the academy and the Trust by contributing to discussions at Academy Scrutiny Committee meetings which consider:**
 - How the academy will deliver the Trust's strategic priorities and targets via the Academy Improvement Plan.
 - Access of children, including those with special educational needs, to a broad, balanced and engaging curriculum.
 - The quality of teaching.
 - The implementation of the Trust's policies.
 - The development of links with the local community.
 - The establishment of mechanisms to champion the Trust and promote good community/ parent/ carer/ family relations.

- 2) Hold the senior leaders to account by scrutinising the academy's achievement of targets, school improvement and pupil outcomes; this includes:**
 - Monitoring and challenging implementation of statutory safeguarding obligations and priorities, including duties relating to looked after children.
 - Agreeing the outcomes from the academy's self-evaluation and ensuring they are used to inform the priorities in the academy's improvement plan.
 - Challenge the achievement of academic targets at each KPI point, ensuring all groups and individuals are making good or better progress with particular emphasis on target groups such as boys, disadvantaged pupils, higher achieving pupils, pupils with special educational needs.
 - Asking challenging questions of academy leaders.
 - Acting as a critical friend to academy leaders, being ready to challenge in relation to all aspects of the academy's performance including academic achievement, quality of teaching, attendance, exclusions, complaints and behavioural issues.
 - Acting as a link governor on a specific issue, eg safeguarding, SEND or another aspect of the academy improvement plan, making relevant enquiries of the relevant staff, and reporting to the Academy Scrutiny Committee on the progress on the relevant academy priority.
 - Listening to and reporting to the academy's stakeholders: pupils, parents, staff, and the wider



community, including local employers.

- Challenging the estates presentation of the Academy.

3) When required, serve on panels of the Trust to:

- Hear disciplinary / grievance hearings.
- Review exclusions.
- Review complaint outcomes and appeals.
- Appoint senior staff in the academy.

4) Follow the principles and commitments set out in the Trust's Code of Conduct for Directors and Local Governors.

- The role of a Local Governor is largely a challenge and scrutiny role; they do not manage an academy day-to-day, but are required to oversee its long-term development in conjunction with the Trust.
- Local Governors are required to declare any actual or potential conflicts of interest.

5) Knowledge and skills

Core Requirements (essential):

You must be 18 or over at the time of election or appointment.

You should be able to demonstrate:

- An active interest in education.
- Integrity, objectivity, honesty and a willingness to act in the public interest.
- A commitment to:
 - Improving quality and raising standards.
 - The ethos of the Trust and the school and a willingness to promote it within the community.
 - Promoting equality and diversity.
 - Developing your knowledge and understanding of the role by attending local, regional and national training courses and briefings.
- A willingness to:
 - Get to know the school: its needs, strengths and areas of development.
 - Visit the school during teaching hours (with prior arrangement with the Principal) and to attend evening meetings and events to get to know the Academy and to be visible to the Academy community.
 - Work positively with others and to contribute as a member of a team.



General skills and abilities:

You would be expected to have, or be willing to develop, the following general skills and abilities:

- Work on your own initiative.
- Critical listening and questioning skills.
- Analytical and problem solving abilities.

Training and support is available for new and existing Local Governors. All local Governors are expected to undertake a number of mandatory training modules.

6) Eligibility

Local Governors must be aged 18 or over at the time of election or appointment. Registered students cannot be local Governors.

A person is disqualified or may be terminated from being a local Governor if:

- S/he resigns by serving written notice to the DRET Governance Team, via the Chair and Clerk of the ASC.
- The Trustees terminate his/her appointment.
- In the case of a Staff Member, his/her employment is terminated.
- S/he becomes incapable by reason of mental disorder, illness or injury of managing or administering his own affairs.
- S/he is absent, unless agreed otherwise, for two consecutive meetings of the Governors, in which case the Trustees may remove a Governor at their discretion.
- S/he would be disqualified from acting as a charity trustee by virtue of Section 178 of the Charities Act 2011.
- His/her estate has been sequestrated and the sequestration has not been discharged, annulled or reduced or if he is the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order or an interim order.
- S/he is: included in the list of teachers and workers with children or young persons whose employment is prohibited or restricted under section 1 of the Protection of Children Act 1999.
- S/he is disqualified from working with children under section 28, 29, 29A and 29B of the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000.
- S/he is a person in respect of whom a direction has been made under section 142 of the Education Act 2002;
- S/he is has not complied with the Trust's safeguarding/DBS policies or a material part of these Terms of Reference.
- S/he is has not complied with the Trust's Conflicts of Interests' policy resulting in a significant breach of trust, as determined by the Trustees.
- Refuses to an application being made to the Disclosure and Barring Services (DBS) for a criminal records check.
- At any time, the Trustees reasonably consider his or her removal to be in the interests of the Trust.



7) Time commitment

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

8) Communications

All Local Governors will be provided with a DRET Governor email address which they will be required to use for all Trust and academy communications.

9) Term of appointment

The normal term of appointment is four years and you would be eligible to be re-appointed for another term. As a volunteer you can resign at any time if your circumstances change.

10) Expenses

You may claim for necessary out of pocket expenses (such as travel costs) incurred as a result of fulfilling your role as a member of the Academy Scrutiny Committee. Expenses will be paid at the rates outlined in the Trust's Expenses Policy. Payments do not cover loss of earnings.

11) Safeguarding

The Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

All local Governors are expected to hold or be willing to obtain Enhanced DBS check with the Disclosure and Barring Services (previously the Criminal Records Bureau).

All local Governors are expected to undertake mandatory Safeguarding Training.