



SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE AND STROUD COLLEGE **ACADEMY TRUST**

LOCAL GOVERNOR ROLE DESCRIPTION AND **PERSON SPECIFICATION**

BACKGROUND

South Gloucestershire and Stroud Academy Trust (SGSAT) is a company limited by guarantee and is constituted as a non-profit charitable trust. SGSAT is sponsored by South Gloucestershire and Stroud College. As SGSAT has been established as a multi-academy trust it is capable of having more than one academy within the trust.

Academy Schools are state funded schools in England which are directly funded by central government (specifically the Department for Education) and independent of direct control by the local authority. The majority of academies are secondary schools, but some primary schools also have academy status.

Academies are self-governing, however, they must meet the same National Curriculum core subject requirements as other state schools and are subject to inspection by Ofsted.

As part of a Multi-Academy Trust, the Local Governing Body is a Committee of the SGSAT Board of Trustees. The Local Governing Body acts within a scheme of delegated authority and terms of reference, which outline its responsibilities.

LOCAL GOVERNORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

The role of a Governor is to contribute to the work of the Local Governing Body in raising the standards of achievement for all pupils. This involves providing a strategic view for the school, acting as a critical friend and ensuring accountability.

LOCAL GOVERNORS' DUTIES

Local Governors hold responsibilities as follows:

- a) To pupils, parents and the wider school and local community.
- b) As a Committee of the SGS Academy Trust, to the SGS Academy Trust Board, via the Chair of Governors.
- b) To the government, funding bodies and public for the use of public funds.

A Governor must work as part of the Local Governing Body to undertake the following responsibilities:

- a) Ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction of the School, in line with SGSAT's overall mission and strategic objectives.
- b) Ask challenging questions of school leaders and ensure these questions are correctly responded to.
- c) Contribute to the School's self-evaluation and understand its strengths and weaknesses, including the impact of the Local Governing Body. Continually monitor the implementation of agreed actions and the impact of these actions on the School.
- d) Support and strengthen School leadership, including development of individual and the collective skills of the Local Governing Body.
- e) Provide challenge and hold the Head teacher and other senior leaders to account for improving the quality of teaching, pupils' achievement and pupils' behaviour and safety, including using the Ofsted data dashboard, other progress data, examination outcomes and test results; ensuring plans are in place and implemented where action to improve is required
- f) Use performance management systems to improve teaching, leadership and management.
- g) Reviewing information on financial performance and adherence to Budget and ensuring plans are in place to rectify any identified issues.
- h) Review information on H&S and Risk Registers and ensuring plans are in place to mitigate any identified issues.
- g) Monitor the implementation and compliance to statutory required policies and procedures and review and approve certain School operational policies as outlined in the LGB Terms of Reference, ensuring that all staff and pupils are safe and treated fairly.
- h) Contribute to effective communication with key stakeholders of the School, including parents/carers, pupils and staff, ensuring that they have an opportunity to play a role in the life of the School.
- i) When required, act as a Lead Governor for specific areas of school focus for example Safeguarding, SEND, Pupil Premium, Equalities and making relevant enquiries of the relevant staff with reporting to the Local Governing Body on progress.
- i) Participate in an annual evaluation process of the governance procedures including appropriate self-evaluation/assessment processes and ensure action is identified and followed through.
- k) When required, be involved in Governor Review Panels.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Local Governors should be able to demonstrate:

- a) An interest in education and in providing learning and development opportunities.
- b) Commitment to raising standards and seeking the highest quality provision for learners.
- c) Commitment to the School.
- d) A willingness to devote the necessary time and effort to the business of the School.
- e) Strategic vision.
- f) An understanding of the role, in particular the distinction between governance and management.

- g) The ability and willingness to provide challenge by asking probing questions and to participate in robust debate.
- h) The ability to communicate effectively, to express ideas clearly and listen to others.
- i) The ability to work as a member of a team and to stand by the collective decisions of the Local Governing Body.
- j) The ability to act as a critical friend to the School.
- k) A willingness to undertake appropriate training to develop skills and an understanding of the school, the Local Governing Body and the role of a Governor.
- l) Commitment to the principles of equality and diversity.
- m) An interest in voluntary service to the community. (The role of a Governor is voluntary and unpaid, although external training and related travel will be paid for).
- n) Adherence to the seven principles of public life laid down by the Nolan Committee. These are Selflessness, Integrity, Objectivity, Accountability, Openness, Honesty and Leadership.

ELIGIBILITY

Upon appointment, Governors will be asked to give a written undertaking to confirm their eligibility to be a Local Governor, uphold the objects of the Trust as set out in the Articles of Association and all policies and procedures agreed by the Trust or Local Governing Body from time to time.

TIME COMMITMENT

- a) To make all endeavours to attend all meetings of the Local Governing Body (at least one meeting per term) and any Committees of which s/he is a member, and preparation time for such meetings. These meetings are normally held in an evening.
- b) Available to attend appropriate induction and training and development events to help improve knowledge and skills.
- c) Governors are strongly encouraged to visit the School and undertake Link Governor roles to help them get to know and understand how the School works and to monitor School improvement.
- d) Governors may be invited to special occasions, such as assemblies, sports days, plays and presentations.
- e) A Governors' term of office is normally four years.

KEY RELATIONSHIPS

- a) Chair of the Local Governing Body
- b) Other Governors, Trustees and Members of SGSAT
- c) Relevant Committees
- d) Head Teachers/Principals and members of the Leadership Team
- e) Clerk to the Local Governing Body

