

Role of the SEND Local Academy Council Governor



PURPOSE OF ROLE

The SEND Governor is a volunteer member of the Local Academy Council (LAC) who acts as the "eyes and ears" of the Trust Board at a school level. The role is to monitor how well the school provides for its pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and to ensure the school meets all statutory compliance requirements.

Crucially, the SEND Governor does not need to be an expert in SEND. Instead, they act as a "champion" for children with additional needs, ensuring they are treated fairly and included in all aspects of school life. The role focuses on strategic oversight and monitoring rather than the day-to-day operational management of SEND provision, which is the responsibility of the Headteacher and SENDCO.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Strategic Leadership and Culture

- **Champion Inclusion:** Act as the lead "champion" for pupils with SEND on the LAC, promoting the Trust's vision of a culture where every child is celebrated as an integral part of the community.
- **High Expectations:** Challenge the school to maintain high expectations and aspirations for all pupils, ensuring that labels do not lead to lower expectations or "pigeonholing".
- **A Culture of Belonging:** Seek assurance that the school is creating an environment of "unreasonable hospitality" where every child feels safe, valued, and inspired.
- **Reporting:** Provide regular (typically termly) updates to the LAC on the effectiveness of the school's SEND provision and any trends observed.

B. Policy and Compliance

- **Policy Implementation:** Ensure the school's Special Educational Needs Policy is implemented fairly and consistently across the school.
- **Statutory Duties:** Monitor the school's compliance with its legal duties under the SEND Code of Practice and the Equality Act 2010, ensuring the school uses its "best endeavours" to meet pupils' needs.
- **Qualified SENDCO:** Verify that the school has a qualified SENDCO in post to oversee strategy and provision.
- **Website Requirements:** Check that the school publishes a compliant and up-to-date SEND Information Report and Accessibility Plan on its website.

C. Monitoring, Assurance, and Challenge

- **Liaison with SENDCO:** Meet with the Trust/School SENDCO at least termly to discuss the implementation of the SEND policy and the progress of pupils.
- **Graduated Approach:** Seek assurance that the school follows the "assess, plan, do, review" cycle to support pupils effectively.
- **Scrutinising Data:** Review anonymised school data to monitor trends in the attainment, attendance, and suspension rates of pupils with SEND.

- **Safeguarding:** Maintain an awareness that pupils with SEND face additional barriers to reporting abuse and ensure the curriculum is adapted to teach them how to stay safe.

D. Training and Professional Development

- **Governor Training:** Complete required SEND link governor training to understand the statutory context and the LAC's specific oversight role.
- **Staff Training Assurance:** Seek assurance that all staff receive appropriate training to identify and support pupils with SEND, including participation in Communities of Practice.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

The SEND Governor will:

- Have a strong commitment to the Trust's vision of flourishing and "unreasonable hospitality".
- Have a strong interest in special educational needs and a commitment to the Trust's vision of flourishing for all.
- Possess good communication skills to provide constructive challenge to school leaders and report back to the LAC.
- Be willing to dedicate time for termly link visits and meetings with the SENDCO.
- Have the ability to scrutinise data and reports to ensure resources are used effectively to improve outcomes.
- Demonstrate a commitment to strict confidentiality regarding sensitive information about individual pupils or families.