

The Role of a Link Trustee in the Education Learning Trust

Overview

The Link Trustee serves as a key conduit between the Trust Board and the Academy Governing Boards (AGBs) within Education Learning Trust. This role involves fostering two-way communication, and ensuring the Trust Board maintains a well-informed understanding of each school's unique context, community, and challenges.

Core Purpose of the Role:

- Strengthen communication and mutual understanding between the Trust Board and individual AGBs.
- Ensure the Trust Board remains connected to the local context of each school within the Trust.
- Support effective local governance and the Trust's commitment to local accountability and community engagement.

Key Responsibilities:

Engagement and Representation

- Attend at least one AGB meeting per year for each school across the Trust, as agreed with the Chair of Trustees and the respective AGB Chairs.
- Represent the Trust Board at AGB meetings as an observer or contributor (as appropriate), ensuring the presence of the Board is supportive, not directive.
- Build positive relationships with local governors, Headteachers, and stakeholders to understand each school's context and community.

Reporting and Communication

- Provide regular, structured feedback to the Trust Board on themes, strengths, challenges, and local issues raised at AGB meetings.
- Share relevant Trust Board updates and strategic priorities with AGBs to ensure alignment and understanding.
- Identify and communicate any areas where AGBs require support, development, or additional guidance from the Executive Leadership Team.

Insight Gathering

- Develop an informed oversight of the local context of each school (e.g. community needs, pupil demographics, local partnerships, reputational issues).
- Recognise and highlight good practice in local governance that could be shared across the Trust.

- Identify emerging risks or challenges at the school level that may require Trust-level attention.

Governance Oversight and Support

- Support the Trust Board in monitoring the effectiveness of local governance arrangements.
- Contribute to the Trust's governance review and development strategies by bringing in insights from AGBs.
- Participate in training and updates to maintain a current understanding of governance best practice and statutory duties.

Working Relationships:

- Reports to: Chair of the Trust Board
- Key relationships with:
 - Academy Governing Body Chairs
 - Headteachers
 - Governance Professional/Clerk(s)
 - Other Trustees
 - ELT Executive Leadership Team

Time Commitment:

- Attendance at a minimum of one AGB meeting per school annually
- Trust Board meetings (termly)
- Joint Focus Group and Chairs Meetings as required
- Occasional additional meetings or school visits as needed

Additional Note:

Their role is strategic, supportive, and analytical — helping Trustees to hold AGBs to account, remaining within governance boundaries in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation.