

Parent Governor – Academy Committee

What is an Academy Committee and what do they do?

An Academy Committee (AC) is a group of volunteers committed to supporting and challenging school leaders to ensure a school or academy is the best it can be. Working directly with Head of School and academy trust leaders, the primary responsibility of the AC is to help deliver the strategic direction of the school, [supporting and challenging the quality and impact of leadership](#) in any given academy. The AC contributes towards [reviewing the extent of community involvement](#) by the academy and considers how the academy 'reaches out' to its local community. It has an important responsibility to ensure the right processes are in place to ensure [the welfare and safeguarding](#) of all pupils and to provide independent oversight of how a school manages pupils' learning.

Importantly, the AC does *not* play a direct role in the operational business of a school and Governors are not expected to work directly with pupils.

The Academy Committee (AC) is a committee of Grove Learning Trust's Board of Directors, the Trust Board. We have; Co-opted Governors, who are appointed by the AC, Staff Governors, elected by school staff teams and Parent Governors, who are elected by the parent community of the school.

What do Parent Governors do?

Parent Governors sit on the AC alongside other Governors but are elected to the role by other parents.

Parent Governors are not expected to act as representatives of the parent community. However, their [insight and parental perspective is essential](#) in shaping the values that underpin the culture, strategy, policies and procedures of the school.

There are some key elements to the role:

- Holding leaders to account by contributing at meetings and seeking assurances of the academic performance of the school
- Championing the academy, supporting school leaders and staff to promote it positively
- Ensuring money is well spent with regards to statutory grants, such as pupil premium funding

What are the expectations?

Grove Learning Trust (GLT) understands that the role of an Academy Committee (AC) governor is voluntary, however, for the AC to function efficiently and effectively, there are expectations of all governors alike. Parent Governors have a Term of Office of four years.

While membership of an Academy Committee does require a commitment, it is far from a full-time role and Grove Learning Trust (GLT) understands that the role of an Academy Committee (AC) governor is voluntary.

Each Academy Committee meets once a term (six times per school year) and each governor is expected to prepare for and attend these meetings.

AC meetings are held in the evening at the school, and usually last approximately 1½ - 2 hours. It is expected Governors read all supporting papers prior to the meeting and have questions prepared to ensure an effective and efficient meeting.

There is an expectation that governors are proactive in completing school visits approx. 2/3 times per year, either within a link governor capacity (SEND, Safeguarding and Grants) or, through learning walks focussed around agreed subject areas to support school improvement, and provide feedback on these visits at meetings.

Governors will be offered access to training to support them in their roles.

Please see the school website or contact the Governance Professional on amelia.penfold@grovelearningtrust.co.uk to obtain an application form.