

A Local Governing Body for a Church of England School in a Multi-Academy Trust in the Diocese of Hereford

Introduction

Trusts must establish local governance in the form of a Local Governing Body (LGB) for each Church of England school, in order to preserve the historic connection between the church and Church academy. The Hereford Diocesan Board of Education (HDBE) will need to approve the composition of the LGB prior to conversion and in the event that any subsequent changes are proposed following conversion.

The local governing body (LGB) is a committee of the Trust Board and has responsibilities in relation to one or more academies. Those who serve on the LGB are generally referred to as "local governors" to make it clear that their role is different to that of a governor in a maintained school.

The specifics of the LGB's responsibilities will depend on what has been delegated to it from the Trust Board in the scheme of delegation (SODA).

The composition of a LGB of a Church of England academy is set out in an agreed LGB composition document. The LGB will include foundation local governors and will generally reflect the other types of governors the school had when it was a maintained school, except that there will be no local authority appointment. Any change to the school's agreed LGB composition document requires the consent of the HDBE.

LGB composition

Trusts are responsible for ensuring that the composition meets the requirements set out in their Articles of Association and other governing documentation.

On each LGB, there must be a foundation presence which reflects the status of the former school and the position on conversion.

Majority Foundation Local Governance

In respect of any Church academy that:

- was a Voluntary Aided (**VA**) school immediately prior to conversion to academy status;
- was a Voluntary Controlled (**VC**) school or a Foundation church school immediately before conversion to academy status, but adopted the VA school equivalent clauses in its Supplemental Funding Agreement on or after conversion to academy status; or
- is a Church academy which did not have a predecessor school, but which adopted the VA school equivalent clauses in its Supplemental Funding Agreement
- the LGB shall have such number of foundation local governors as is required to outnumber all other local governors by two.

Minority Foundation Local Governance

Subject to the above, in respect of a Church academy that had previously been a VC school, or a Foundation church school, the LGB shall have not less than two and no more than 25% of its members appointed as foundation local governors.

Joint LGBs

If the intention is that there will be a LGB over more than one school, this will need express approval of the HDBE, which will require that the foundation local governor presence for any Church school who will be overseen by the LGB is not watered down. Accordingly, where the joint LGB includes any Church academy falling under the heading "Majority Foundation Local Governance," the requirements as set out for that school will apply: otherwise, the requirements under the "Minority Foundation Local Governance" heading will apply.

Eligibility to Serve on a Local Governing Board

The Government stipulates that appropriate checks are made on anybody who will be working in a school or further education institution, and this includes LGB Members. Newly appointed LGB Members are subject to a satisfactory application being made to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) for a criminal records certificate. This is undertaken by the Academy Trust.

Ethos Undertakings

In an academy context, all governance appointments with responsibilities in relation to Church of England schools are required to sign an ethos undertaking that has been agreed between the trust and the HDBE, and which reflects the trust's charitable Objects.

In addition, the role of a LGB is to:

- Uphold the founding Trust deed for the school (not least in relation to the Site)
- To safeguard and promote the values of the of the Academy Trust and uphold and develop the Christian character and ethos of the Church of England school
- Maintain an up to date understanding of the requirements of the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools and of what constitutes the Christian character of a Church of England School.

The appointing body is the Hereford Diocesan Board of Education (HDBE)/Diocese of Hereford Educational Trust (DHET) for all foundation members of the Local Governing Board in academy trusts.

Please click on the following link:

to request an application form for proposed appointments or re-appointments of Local Governing Board in academy trusts where the appointing body is the Hereford Diocesan Board of Education (HDBE)/Diocese of Hereford Educational Trust (DHET).