

**LDBS Academies Trust
&
LDBS Academies Trust 2**

**LOCAL ACADEMY COMMITTEE
GOVERNOR ROLE DESCRIPTION**

The key purpose of LDBS Academies Trust and LDBS Academies Trust 2's (collectively referred to as the 'LAT') Local Academy Committees ('LACs') is to help LAT schools provide the best possible education and opportunities for pupils within the ethos of 'excellence and equity for all children in a Christian context'. They do this by making decisions collectively, and in collaboration with the LAT Board of Directors, by:

1. Setting the school's values, vision and strategic aims, which involves;
 - Agreeing plans and policies;
 - Helping to set and maintain the broad framework within which the Headteacher and the staff should run the school; and
 - Making creative use of resources.

2. Monitoring and evaluating performance, which involves;
 - Acting as a critical friend to the (Executive) Headteacher, to support and challenge them in managing the school; and
 - Asking the (Executive) Headteacher – and, where appropriate, school staff – challenging questions.

3. Ensuring that the school is accountable to the children and parents it serves, to its local community, to those who fund and maintain it, as well as to the staff it employs. When tricky issues arise, the accountability to what is best for the children overrides the other priorities.

LACs have a strategic remit and their duties are outlined in their Scheme of Delegation. Their duties may include:

- Setting and monitoring the overall budget for the school;
- Deciding on the staffing structure to ensure the national curriculum is taught to all pupils;
- Setting targets for pupil achievement and attendance;
- Publishing national test and exam results;

- Comparing the performance of their school to similar schools;
- Receiving information about the quality of teaching in the school;
- Having a published strategy for dealing with parental complaints and concerns;
- Ensuring health and safety issues are addressed;
- Asking challenging questions;
- Consulting the (Executive) Headteacher and LAT Board of Directors when making decisions;
- Developing delegated school policies and procedures;
- Considering the repair and maintenance of school buildings;
- Considering the use of school premises outside school hours; and
- Appointing Link Governors to focus on key aspects of the school such as (but not limited to) a curriculum area, Special Education Needs and Disability, Safeguarding, Attendance, Pupil Premium. A Safeguarding link, in particular, is mandatory.

Key Skills / Experience / Knowledge required within a LAC

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| • Ability to work within a team | • Knowledge of the local community |
| • Experience of governance in any sector | • Risk assessment |
| • Communication skills | • Influencing skills |
| • Self-evaluation | • Negotiation and mediation skills |
| • Data analysis | • Safeguarding |
| • Staff recruitment | • Special Education Needs |
| • Financial management / accountancy | • Handling complaints, grievances or appeals |
| • Performance Management | • Teaching & pedagogy |
| • Problem solving | • Legal |
| • Strategic planning | • Procurement / Purchasing |

LAC Governors are:

1. Committed to:

- Raising aspirations, expectations and standards of achievement in LAT schools;
- Attending and contributing* to meetings and workings of the LAC;
- Promoting and supporting equal opportunities for all members of the LAT school community; and
- Ensuring LAT schools provide pupils with an educational experience that reflects the ethos of *'excellence and equity for all children in a Christian context'*.

2. Expected to:

- Serve as a LAC Governor for a period of up to four years;
- Contribute and share specific skills, knowledge, and / or experience to help the school provide the best possible education for its pupils;
- Focus on a key aspect of the school as a Link Governor, such as Safeguarding, Special Educational Needs and Disability, or a curriculum subject;
- Visit the school in the capacity of a Link Governor, during which they should meet with the relevant Lead Manager (or similar) to develop their understanding of how their 'area' works within the school for the benefit of the pupils, and observe the school in action (such visits are not assessments, but observations);
- Undertake training identified by the LAC's skills audit and keep themselves up to date on educational matters;
- Provide objectivity in debate and decision-making; and
- Add further and different perspectives to LAT school matters.

** LAC governors' attendance at meetings and fulfilment of their duties will be assessed and reported on at the end of each Academic Year. Removal from the LAC can be realised if the LAC Governor misses three consecutive meetings or is remiss in their duties—the Local Academy Committee has statutory responsibilities which must be undertaken and needed skills must be supplied.*