

Inspiring employers

Engage your employees to
volunteer as school governors



Inspiring Governance is a FREE service connecting volunteers with schools looking for governors and trustees.

Benefits of volunteering as a school governor

Volunteering as a school governor or trustee is a rewarding role that provides your employees with excellent opportunities for personal and professional development in an exciting and challenging environment. Most importantly, you are contributing to improving schools for children and young people.

Supporting employees to volunteer

By supporting your employees to become governors and trustees, you're making a commitment to local schools and the wider community. You are also making a significant investment in your employees by giving them the opportunity to apply transferable skills, develop new skills and competencies in their governing role.

The skills employees gain by volunteering has direct relevance to employers. Nearly all of these skills feature in competency frameworks used by companies to monitor and guide staff development.

Professional development opportunity

Being a school governor or trustee is a great opportunity for employees to develop valuable skills and experience to support their organisation and career development. By volunteering, employees have improved their skills in:

- strategic leadership
- project management
- budget control
- data analysis
- recruitment and selection
- building relationships and networks
- effective teamworking
- communication
- problem solving
- influencing/negotiation

Who can become a school governor?

School governing boards need volunteers from different backgrounds with a wide range of professional and personal skills to drive forward school improvement. There are no



Being a school governor or trustee is an incredibly important role that makes a difference to the lives of children, young people, and the local community.



Emma Knights, Chief Executive,
National Governance Association

Interested in finding out more?

As a partner we support your business in the process of placing and supporting volunteers. If you'd like to find out more, please get in touch:

particular qualifications required and anyone over 18 years of age can become a governor or trustee that has a willingness to give time to the role and a capacity for working with people.

Responsibilities of school governors

The governing board plays a critical role in a school's success and the success of its students. School governors and trustees are responsible for providing strategic direction, ensuring accountability and monitoring and evaluating school performance. Specific responsibilities include appointing the headteacher and budgetary control and allocation.

Commitment

As a school governor or trustee, you will be expected to attend meetings, participate in one of the committees that support the governing board and do the necessary preparatory reading. Time commitment is expected to be 10–20 days per year depending on the type of school and any additional responsibilities you want to take on. All appointments are subject to an enhanced criminal record check.

How we support your employees once they're placed

We want to make sure our volunteers become great governors and trustees. That means providing support to your employees once they're in post. All volunteers matched and placed will be able to access a range of support from the National Governance Association (NGA). This includes:

- a dedicated telephone and email support line to walk you through your first year
- a complimentary copy of NGA's Welcome to Governance induction guide
- access to NGA's online guidance centre containing a wealth of governance resources
- access to free training through NGA's e-learning induction programme
- membership of the Young Governors' Network for young volunteers under the age of 40

How employers are using Inspiring Governance to support their aims

By being an Inspiring Governance partner

- you have a real stake in your local community by contributing to improving schools and a future workforce
- your employees develop new board level skills
- your employees access free training and development opportunities
- provides your business with opportunities to build meaningful links with local schools
- your business can access free reports to track engagement and corporate social responsibility

The skills governors develop in the course of their school duties may stretch beyond those of their day-to-day job and expand their workplace skills. Applying their knowledge and expertise in a different situation from the one they encounter in their regular course of work can help to develop problem-solving and other skills that they can in turn apply to their job.

The Confederation of British Industry
Leading the Way report, 2013

Still have questions? Get in touch; we'd love to hear from you.