



Local governance in the Bath and Wells Multi Academy Trust

BWMAT Context

The accountable body in BWMAT is the Board of Trustees who are accountable for all activity in the Trust. In order to ensure that each school in the Trust has its own voice, the schools have a Trust Local Committee (TLC) consisting of 6 members. We don't use the term 'governor' for a member of the TLC as the TLC is a committee of the Board of Trustees and does not have the accountability of a "Governing Body". Instead, it has a number of responsibilities delegated to it through the Trust's Scheme of Delegation. The role of the TLC is to provide confident, strategic leadership and to create a robust accountability framework that enables oversight and assurance of the school's arrangements to promote safeguarding and high standards, whilst forming a positive partnership with the school's stakeholders.

Key duties

Together, TLC members have responsibility for the following in their school:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding senior leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the performance management of staff;
- Overseeing the financial and operational performance of the school and making sure that money is well spent.

The TLC works with the Headteacher to lead the strategic direction of the school. The Headteacher is responsible for the management of staff and the quality of teaching, learning and assessment in school, and TLC members are not expected to get involved in the operational management of the school. A core aspect of the role however is to hold leaders to account for the quality of education.

Responsibilities

The main responsibilities of the TLC include:

- Determining the vision, aims and priorities of the school within the wider Trust values;
- Reviewing the School Development Plan (the school's medium-long term priorities) developed by school leaders and monitoring progress against this;
- Monitoring pupil progress and attainment, particularly that of disadvantaged children;
- Monitoring the school budget;
- Monitoring the intent and impact of a broad and balanced curriculum;
- Ensuring children are safe in school, there is a culture of robust safeguarding and health and safety;
- Maintaining and improving the school environment;

- Performance management of the Headteacher;
- Being involved in strategic staffing changes and appointments;
- Ensuring the school is an active member of the wider community

Person specification

TLC members do not need to have experience of education and an effective TLC will have members from different backgrounds, experiences and professions. The essential qualities of any TLC member will however include:

- Keeping children at the heart of decision making and valuing the impact of education;
- Knowing each child only has one chance for a positive start to their education;
- A commitment to fairness and equality;
- Upholding the vision and values of the school;
- Analytical skills- asking questions and being professionally curious;
- Being able to work as part of a team;
- Sound communication and listening skills;
- Openness to new learning, training and reflection;
- Digital literacy to allow you to meet with staff online and review school documentation;
- Being able to maintain confidentiality

Expectations and time commitment

The below is the expectation of all TLC members:

- Attend at least 6 business meetings per year, typically 2 hours in length, and any additional meetings that may be required;
- Prepare for meetings by reading agenda papers, reports and minutes;
- Check the school email account regularly to keep up to date on communications;
- Complete essential safeguarding training;
- Attend training sessions as appropriate;
- Participate in additional meetings e.g. to review complaints or appeals;
- Expect to attend school approximately 3 times per year during the working day to attend events and undertake monitoring visits;
- Act as the 'Lead' for a specific area e.g. Safeguarding or Special Educational Needs, and monitor this area of school life;
- Openness to work towards Chairing the TLC

Support and training

Comprehensive induction training is available for members joining a TLC for the first time alongside a programme of ongoing training/development. Our Trust believes in local governance and has more than 200 TLC members in our Trust family providing a fantastic opportunity to share experiences and best-practice at briefings and networking events.