



North Tyneside  
Learning Trust

Connecting our community of schools

Become a **Foundation Governor** with  
the North Tyneside Learning Trust and  
make a difference in our schools

## WHAT IS THE NORTH TYNESIDE LEARNING TRUST (NTLT)?

A collaboration of schools working in partnership with employers, universities and colleges to improve education and life chances for all children and young people. We have 43 member schools in North Tyneside across age and phase and 22 formal employer partners with over 170 supporters from business and enterprise.



**43 MEMBER  
SCHOOLS**  
IN NORTH TYNESIDE



**22 FORMAL  
EMPLOYER PARTNERS**



**170 SUPPORTERS  
FROM BUSINESS AND ENTERPRISE**

We offer a range of programmes and activities to support our schools including our World of Work and Careers Education programme, the NTLT STEM Hub which brings together the work of the Trust and that of the Great North Maths Hub, Apple Regional Partnership and Science Learning Partnership. We have the responsibility of placing two Foundation Governors from business and industry on each of our schools' governing bodies.

## WHY BECOME A FOUNDATION GOVERNOR?

Volunteering as a Foundation Governor can be very rewarding, and benefits include:

- Developing your professional skills and experience such as strategic planning, chairing, financial planning, and team working, all of which are valued by employers and can assist you in your own career development;
- Building relationships and networks in your locality and;
- Supporting children and young people in your community.



## WHAT DO FOUNDATION GOVERNORS DO?

Governors contribute to the work of the governing body in ensuring high standards of achievement for all children and young people in the

school. They provide strategic leadership and accountability and have three key functions:

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



Governors set the aims and objectives for their school and set the policies and targets for achieving those aims and objectives. They monitor and evaluate the progress the school is making and act as a source of challenge and support to the headteacher and their senior leadership team. In practice this could be:

- taking part in appointing and performance reviewing the headteacher;
- overseeing the budget and deciding how money is well spent;
- ensuring there is a broad and balanced curriculum offer;
- reviewing data and having challenging conversations about the school;
- sitting on panels and making decisions on pupil exclusions and staff disciplinary matters and;
- engaging with pupils, staff, parents and the school community.

As a Foundation Governor we ask that you promote the objectives of the NTLT and ensure that the governing body is kept up to date and supports the school to actively engage with Trust programmes and activities.

The average time commitment is five to eight hours per month, although it will vary depending on the needs of the school. This includes attending meetings, background reading and making school visits. As well as full governing body meetings, many schools have various committees and link governor roles which you will be expected to take part in. Governors take on the role for a 4-year term of office, and there is always the opportunity to continue this work into further terms of office. Some governors have the capacity to become governors at two schools at the same time and we welcome this where the governor has the capacity to support both schools.

## WHERE DO GOVERNORS COME FROM?

Governors represent people from many walks of life: school staff, parents, the local community, and organisations connected to the school. This means that school decisions are made by people with a wide range of experience and views. Governors must be at least 18 years of age and have the time and enthusiasm to make a positive contribution to the school and the local community. There is no requirement to have an understanding of the education system.



## WHAT SUPPORT AND TRAINING DOES NTLT PROVIDE?

- We provide new governors with an information pack and a new governor induction session which is held remotely or in person.
- We provide you with half termly updates on current Trust programmes and activities for you to share at your governing body meetings.
- We provide an annual programme of governor training facilitated by the National Governance Association covering areas such as finance, carrying out a governor visit and getting ready for an Ofsted inspection.
- We carry out an annual survey to help shape and improve our support to Foundation Governors.

## WHAT'S THE NEXT STEP



Contact the Trust Governor Strategic Lead Jacqui Sugden for an informal chat or to obtain an application form.



Once your application form is received, two references will be obtained, and your application will be considered for approval by the NTLT Board.



Once approved we will provide you with an opportunity to meet with the Headteacher and Chair of Governors prior to joining their governing body.

## WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU

Please contact the Trust Governor Strategic Lead Jacqui Sugden at [governors@ntlearningtrust.org.uk](mailto:governors@ntlearningtrust.org.uk) or visit our website [ntlearningtrust.org.uk/about/trust-governors](https://ntlearningtrust.org.uk/about/trust-governors) for more information.