

Academy trust governance guide

From: **Department for Education**
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Guidance on strategic leadership and the governance of academy trusts.

This non-statutory guidance replaces the governance handbook for academy trusts.

This is a reference document for those involved in trust governance. It provides essential information from a range of sources on the trust board's role and legal responsibilities.

The [Accounting for Academies](#) guidance.



- foundations, sponsors and others, such as diocesan authorities, with an interest in the governance of trusts
- organisations supporting boards to develop effective governance

It does not apply directly to pupil referral units, sixth-form colleges or academies, or general further education colleges, though they may find its principles helpful.

Resources for trust boards

Practical resources for trust boards are available from sector organisations including:

- [National Governance Association \(https://www.nga.org.uk/\)](https://www.nga.org.uk/)
- [Confederation of School Trusts \(https://cstuk.org.uk/\)](https://cstuk.org.uk/)
- [GovernorHub \(https://governorhub.com/\)](https://governorhub.com/)
- [Chartered Governance Institute \(https://www.cgi.org.uk/\)](https://www.cgi.org.uk/)
- [Catholic Education Service \(https://www.catholiceducation.org.uk/\)](https://www.catholiceducation.org.uk/)
- [Church of England Education Office \(https://www.churchofengland.org/about/education-and-schools\)](https://www.churchofengland.org/about/education-and-schools)

[Using this guidance \(/guidance/governance-in-academy-trusts/using-this-guidance\)](/guidance/governance-in-academy-trusts/using-this-guidance)

What you need to know about legal requirements of a trust board

Information on structures, roles and support.

[5. Executive leadership \(/guidance/governance-in-academy-trusts/5-executive-leadership\)](/guidance/governance-in-academy-trusts/5-executive-leadership)

Information on how the board works with the executive leadership.

[6. Accountability \(/guidance/governance-in-academy-trusts/6-accountability\)](/guidance/governance-in-academy-trusts/6-accountability)

How accountability and assurance help to deliver a trust's strategy.

[7. Compliance \(/guidance/governance-in-academy-trusts/7-compliance\)](/guidance/governance-in-academy-trusts/7-compliance)

Guidance for boards on how to meá


