

Fylde Coast Academy Trust

Governors Roles

FCAT Academy Councils

The FCAT Academy Councils have the following core strategic functions:

- To support the vision and direction of FCAT
- To set and review the vision and direction for the Academy within the framework of FCAT's vision
- To hold the Academy Principal and executive team to account for educational standards at the Academy
- To approve and monitor the Academy's budget

Role & Responsibilities of Governors

a) Strategic Leadership

- To understand the purpose of governance including the role of non-executive leadership and the difference between this and operational leadership which falls within the remit of executive staff.
- To understand and adhere to FCAT's culture, values and objectives.
- To operate and make decisions in the best interests of pupils and in line with the Trust's charitable objectives.
- To have knowledge of local, regional and national issues and their potential impact on the delivery and performance of education at the academy and the Trust.
- To ensure that individual political beliefs and viewpoints are not used to influence discussions and/or decisions.

b) Accountability

- To learn and know about the academy/school; its key priorities and issues and be able to report on this to external agencies, including Ofsted, as required.
- To understand the financial position of the academy/school, its resource allocation, expenditure on staffing, Pupil Premium ratio and other relevant issues.
- To attend as many academy council meetings as possible and to prepare for meetings, away days and other events by reading papers in advance in order to identify key questions to constructively challenge the Principal as appropriate.

- To be able to download papers and information via e-mail and other electronic methods including use of Governors' Virtual Office (GVO).
- To be able to analyse and interpret performance and financial data in order to identify any issues and to challenge as required.
- To participate in training, including induction training, mandatory safeguarding training and other training to enhance the effectiveness of the academy council as required.
- To maintain commitment and enthusiasm for the academy's/school's improvement and capacity to keep up to date with developments.

c) Compliance

- To ensure confidentiality in respect of issues discussed in meetings is maintained.
- To complete a skills audit return questionnaire each year in order to enable the Trust to identify skills gaps on the academy council.
- To obtain Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) clearance via the Trust.
- To adhere to legislation and national policy pertinent to the Trust including the Charities Act 2016, the Equality Act 2010, the Prevent Duty (2015) and the Governance Handbook (2017).
- To understand and declare potential conflicts of interest as appropriate.
- To adhere to the FCAT Code of Conduct.

d) Collaboration

- To support other academy councils as required, e.g. on exclusion review meetings, appeals committees, sharing good practice etc.