

The Work of our Local Governing Body

Date: September 2020

Southfields
Multi-Academy
TRUST



Southfields
Academy



Linden Lodge
School

A Specialist Sensory & Physical College

The Work of the Local Governing Body

The Linden Lodge Local Governing Body (LGB) plays a central role in the management of the school, with its main aims to drive up standards of achievement for all students and to make sure that resources are used well to give every pupil the best possible education. It does not involve getting involved in the day-to-day running of the academy, which is the responsibility of the Head teacher and management team, and it does not carry direct statutory responsibilities and accountability for the performance of the academy, which are carried by the Southfields Multi-Academy Board of Trustees. The role is to monitor, challenge, support, and give advice.

The Local Governing Body (LGB)

Linden Lodge School is a member of the Southfields Multi-Academy Trust. The Board of Trustees is legally responsible and accountable for the statutory functions, but have clearly identified the areas of responsibility which they have delegated to the LGBs.

The LGB is made up of a mixture of staff, parents, and co-opted governors to provide a balance of skills, expertise, and stakeholder representation. Parent governors ensure that highest priority is given to the concerns and issues which are most important to our parents, and ensure that the LGB is aware of parental needs and feedback. Co-opted governors bring specific experience from their working life, such as safeguarding, health and wellbeing, and clinical governance. In addition, associate governors can be appointed to provide advice and support in specific areas, or for specific projects, if and when needed. A brief summary of the key responsibilities and expectations of governors is shown below.

Local Governors are appointed to provide:

- Strong links between the school and the community we serve.
- A wide experience of the outside world.
- Critical challenge in terms of school priorities and activity
- A focus on long-term strategic development and improvement.
- Support and challenge for the principal and staff.

Local Governors are expected to:

- Attend meetings twice a term
- Carry out visits to the school and report back.
- Work as a member of the LGB (not as an individual) in the best interests of the school and Multi-Academy Trust

- Become well informed about education in general and about our school in particular.
- Be aware of the role and responsibilities of Southfields Multi-Academy Trust
- Champion the work of the school
- Attend training courses, where appropriate.

Local Governors are also involved in:

- Senior staff appointments.
- Oversight of Safeguarding
- Clinical governance
- Parental complaints.
- Staff discipline/appeals.
- Oversight of the curriculum
- Community links.

Benefits of being a local governor:

- The knowledge that you are supporting the pupils at Linden Lodge to achieve best outcomes.
- The satisfaction of giving something back to the community.
- A sense of purpose and achievement.
- New skills which may be useful elsewhere.
- Knowledge of a highly specialist and complex provision

What local governors give:

- Time (approximately six to 10 hours a month).
 - A willingness to learn.
 - A listening ear and enquiring mind.
 - The ability to assimilate information, ask questions, make judgements, and take decisions.
 - The ability to work as part of a team.
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Linden Lodge LGB currently has a main meeting, plus a separate committee meeting each term which reports back to the full Local Governing Board to help us to focus on specific key areas in more depth:

In the full Local Governing Board meeting we discuss:

The Quality of Education – The curriculum, outcomes of pupils, quality of teaching and learning and specific focus on whole school improvements. The committee also examines the triangulation of evidence to provide an accurate assessment of the school's current areas of strength and those identified for development.

Personal development – Behaviour for learning, attendance, pupils' mental health and pupil and parental engagement and links to the community.

We also have a Clinical Governance and Safeguarding committee which meets once a term. The meeting discuss the quality and management of risk across nursing, therapy provision and Safeguarding. The committee also includes a review of Health and Safety

The Members of the Local Governing Board are:

- Liz Buckley – Co-chair of Local Governing Board
- Martin Schouten – Co-chair of Local Governing Board
- Rupert Marks
- Lewis Crossland
- Julie McLynchy
- Dr William Seligman
- Alison Roberts (associate)