

## The Link Governor role

A Link Governor takes a particular interest in an aspect of Academy business on behalf of the whole Governing Body. **Their role is one of quality assurance (QA) on behalf of the Governing Body.**

This arrangement should ensure that the Governing Body has sufficient insight into the mechanics of the Academy to be able to perform their statutory function.

Link Governor reports are scheduled for consideration at specific Governing Body meetings throughout the year.

Link Governors are responsible for making arrangements with the key staff at the Academy to enable them to carry out their monitoring role. Link Governors are responsible for compiling their reports for the Governing Body and for doing so in good time to enable reports to be circulated prior to meetings. Link Governor reports should be produced in writing and circulated in advance of the meeting, then supplemented verbally at the meeting by the Link Governor, who is expected to respond to questions/comments from the other Governors.

In some instances the Link Governor's 'link person' on the staff team will accompany the Link Governor to the Governing Body meeting.

In instances where there is a federated Governing Body (i.e., the Governing Body oversees more than one school), the same Governor may fulfil the Link Governor role at each school within the federation. In such instances, the Link Governor may prefer the meetings with the relevant senior managers at each of the schools to take place at the same time. Alternatively, the Governing Body may wish to appoint more than one Link Governor per specialist area in some instances, in order that different people focus on liaison with different schools.

### Guidance for Link Governors

Networks of Link Governors are established, co-ordinated by Regional Governance Officers.

*Detailed Guidance for Link Governors is contained in **Section C** of this Handbook.*

### Link Governor areas of responsibility

The effectiveness of arrangements for Link Governance has a direct bearing upon the effectiveness of leadership and management and the Academy overall. Link Governors satisfy themselves about arrangements and provision in their area of focus in order to provide assurance to the Governing Body as a whole. Trust employees should not occupy Link Governor roles.

The Wellspring portfolio of Academies is diverse. The Trust Board celebrates the fact that Academies and communities are unique and may thus have their own distinct governance and oversight needs. Where Governing Bodies make different/additional Link Governor arrangements they are asked to define descriptions for the roles and notify the Trust. This is not requested in cases where the Link Governor role remains substantially the same and the role title is changed.