

CAN YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Working, Learning,
Outstanding... Together...



Minerva
Learning Trust

Inclusion | Independence | Respect | Success

Guide to becoming a Minerva Learning Trust Local Governor

Community Edition

About Minerva Learning Trust

Minerva Learning Trust is a legal entity registered as an exempt Charity, the Trust was established in October 2014. The vision is to provide outstanding education for students who are from a wide variety of backgrounds across the city of Sheffield.

The Trust is an expanding Sheffield based Multi Academy Trust (MAT) with a vision of providing outstanding education for all the students within our schools. The Trust partnership consisting of four secondary schools, a Sixth form and a Post-16 Academy, supports the teaching and learning of around 5,000 students.

Minerva Learning Trust firmly believes in the power of local governance and in the importance of local leadership and governance in order to keep its schools at the heart of the communities they serve.



OUR MISSION

To provide an outstanding education for students, staff and stakeholders within the Trust.

OUR VISION

Our mission is underpinned by our vision that we are 'Stronger Together' by:

'Working Together'

Our students, staff and stakeholders work in partnership to maximise attainment and achievement and create successful and confident citizens.

'Learning Together'

Our students, staff and stakeholders learn collaboratively with each other to develop a highly skilled workforce which impacts positively on students' life chances.

'Outstanding Together'

Our students, staff and stakeholders work tirelessly, effectively, and efficiently to develop an outstanding quality of education in all our schools.

OUR VALUES

Our values underpin all of the work that we do and all of the decisions that we make.

Inclusion

We place the needs of our students at the heart of everything we do and we all support and encourage each other

Independence

We promote and support strong leadership within our students, staff and stakeholders and we are all accountable for each other

Respect

We recognise and appreciate the diverse qualities of our students, schools and stakeholders and we all care for each other.

Success

We celebrate and communicate our successes, share good practice and we all promote a culture of continuously learning from each other

OUR BELIEFS

- We believe that we will have a significant impact on young people in Sheffield by providing outstanding provision.
- We believe that we can empower existing and aspiring leaders to drive school improvement.
- We believe that through a quality education we can support students to be successful in life after school and to positively contribute to society.
- We believe that a child's background and circumstances should not pre-determine their future.
- We believe that we can enrich the learning experience for all our students by providing aspirational opportunity beyond the classroom.

CAN YOU MAKE A
DIFFERENCE?

Become a
Minerva Learning Trust
Local Governor

What Does a Local Governor Do?

Working alongside the Headteacher and senior leaders, the Local Governor's role is to support the Local Governing Body in having a strategic overview of the running of the school, to review and monitor progress made against the School Development Plan, be a critical friend to the Headteacher, and assist in making valuable decisions in relation to school life, with the students teaching and learning, safeguarding and wellbeing at the forefront.

Local Governors have a responsibility to students, staff, parents/carers and the local community to ensure their school meets the needs of all stakeholders.

As a Local Governor, you are making a direct contribution to the education, welfare and future of each young person in our community. You have the opportunity to scope and influence a positive path.

In return for your participation, the role of a Local Governor provides opportunities for you to enhance your personal skill set, develop negotiation, teamwork and other sought after professional skills, all while in a fast paced, complex business environment.

"Being a Local Governor is an opportunity to contribute to the success of young people, the staff charged with their care and the wider community. By offering skills and experience regardless of your work background can be a very powerful force for change in the education of young people in your locality."

Adrian Anderson
Governing Board Member
Chapelton Academy

Key Responsibilities

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding senior leaders to account for the educational performance of the school and its students, and the effective and efficient performance management of staff
- Overseeing the effective spend of additional funding and making sure its money is well spent.

Level of Commitment

- **Time in Office:**
Appointments are initially for one year, followed by a review and provided both parties are happy, the term can be extended for three years.
- **Meetings:**
Local Governing Bodies meet twice every term. Local Governors may be called upon at any time to serve as part of a panel to deal with, complaints, permanent Exclusions and staffing issues. In each case, Local Governors should be impartial and independent, following the appropriate school and Trust policy.
- **Financial:**
The Trust Board shall set out a policy for payment of expenses incurred by Local Governors in the course of their duties, subject to prior application and approval by the Chair of the LGB.
- **Liability:**
Local Governors are not individually liable. Liability is collective and held by the governing body as a whole.

Qualities and Values

Governors are expected to demonstrate:

- Both behaviours and values that are appropriate to the holding of public office (Principles of Public Life)
- Desire to create positive change for young people
- Commitment to the mission, vision and values of Minerva Learning Trust
- Commitment to equality of opportunity, tackling discrimination and setting standards of fair treatment
- Commitment to safeguarding young people
- Commitment to the role and willingness to devote time and effort to discharge their duties

Education, Training and Experience:

- Level of professional experience in a relevant sector Good level of education or a relevant area of expertise Experience of driving positive change
- Commitment to and record of continuous professional development
- Willingness to participate in skills and training to support the role

Knowledge and Skills:

- Understand and accept legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of the role
- Understand the use of attainment and other data to assess the progress, strengths and areas for development in an educational environment
- Understand workforce and financial data
- Ability to think creatively and strategically
- Ability to use independent judgement
- Ability to apply care and diligence to decision making
- Ability to observe confidentiality and act with integrity

Nolan Principles

In 1994 the Government Committee on Standard in Public Life published 7 principles. These "Nolan principles" are still considered to embody an ethical code expected of all who serve in the Public Sector, be them employees or volunteers. The Trust requires Local Governors to uphold these principles:

- **Integrity:**
Holders of public office should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might seek to influence them in the performance of their official duties.
- **Objectivity:**
In carrying out public business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits, holders of public office should make choices on merit.
- **Accountability:**
Holders of public office are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office.
- **Openness:**
Holders of public office should be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands.
- **Honesty:**
Holders of public office have a duty to declare any private interests relating to their public duties and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest.
- **Leadership:**
Holders of public office should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.

Governor Eligibility

In order to be considered for a Local Governor role with Minerva Learning Trust you must be able to agree to, and uphold the following statements.

- I am not disqualified from acting as a charity trustee
- I have not been convicted of an offence involving deception or dishonesty (or any such conviction that is legally regarded as 'spent')
- I have not been involved in tax fraud or other fraudulent behaviour including misrepresentation and/or identify theft
- I have not used a tax avoidance scheme featuring charitable reliefs or using a charity to facilitate avoidance
- I am not an undischarged bankrupt
- I have not made compositions or arrangements with my creditors from which I have not been discharged
- I have not been removed from serving as a charity trustee or been stopped from acting in a management position within a charity
- I have not been disqualified from serving as a company trustee
- I am not included in the list kept by the Secretary of State for Education under s1 of the Protection of Children Act 1999 (or equivalent) or have ever been disqualified from working with children or serving on a governing body of an academy.

Other Interests

Other interests are defined as those which could affect your judgement and objectivity when discussing academy or Trust matters. Other interests do not prevent applicants from being elected governors but must be declared. These interests could include (and are neither exclusive nor exhaustive):

- A family relationship
- An active interest in another school/academy and/or Trust

Diversity

Minerva Learning Trust prides itself in promoting and celebrating diversity and so, we encourage applications for all positions without regard to age, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, marital, or any other legally protected status.

Apply Now

Applications can be made to Local Governor Roles by visiting our website and completing an application form.

WWW.MINERVALEARNINGTRUST.CO.UK