



Local Governance Plan

1. Trust and Academy Governance

- 1.1 The Local Governing Body (LGB) of Discovery Academy has delegated responsibilities from Nexus Multi Academy Trust Board of Directors – through the Chief Executive Officer – which are outlined in the [Nexus Governance Handbook](#) and the Trust’s [Scheme of Delegation](#) .
- 1.2 All individuals with governance responsibilities are required to conduct themselves in accordance to the seven principles of public life **(selflessness; integrity; objectivity; accountability; openness; honesty; and leadership)** and adhere to the Governor Code of Conduct, which is included in the Nexus Governance Handbook. Additionally, Governors have to adhere to the DfE’s Governance Competency Framework. This details that governors must be:
 - 1.2.1 **Confident** - Of an independent mind, able to lead and contribute to courageous conversations, to express their opinion and to play an active role on the board.
 - 1.2.2 **Curious** - Possessing an enquiring mind and an analytical approach and understanding the value of meaningful questioning.
 - 1.2.3 **Challenging** - Providing appropriate challenge to the status quo, not taking information or data at face value and always driving for improvement.
 - 1.2.4 **Collaborative** - Prepared to listen to and work in partnership with others and understanding the importance of building strong working relationships within the board and with executive leaders, staff, parents and carers, pupils/students, the local community and employers.
 - 1.2.5 **Critical** - Understanding the value of critical friendship which enables both challenge and support, and self-reflective, pursuing learning and development opportunities to improve their own and whole board effectiveness.
 - 1.2.6 **Creative** - Able to challenge conventional wisdom and be open-minded about new approaches to problem-solving; recognising the value of

innovation and creative thinking to organisational development and success.

1.3 The **Governance Competency Framework** also details the 6 domains of competency for governors, as follows:



2. Discovery Academy Local Governance Arrangements

2.1 Nexus MAT LGBs have a minimum of 7 members and no more than 12, which must include:

- Chair



- Vice Chair
- 2 x Parent Governors
- 1 x Teacher Staff Governor
- 1 x Non Teacher Staff Governor
- 1 x Governor

2.2 All Governors serve a four year term. At the end of the term, they can stand for re-election or be re-appointed. Governors are free to resign before the end of their four year-year term if they wish so.

2.3 The Headteacher will attend local governing body meetings and be will be appointed as ex-officio member of the LGB, though they may not be able to vote on all matters. This is covered in more detail in the LGB terms of reference, within the Scheme of Delegation.

3. Discovery Academy Local Governance Arrangements - September 2022

3.1 As Discovery Academy is a new school, interim governance arrangements will be introduced when the school opens. This will include the Discovery Project Board (to be renamed Discovery Transition Board) holding governance oversight of the school from September to December 2022. The Board will be accountable to the Nexus Board of Directors, via the CEO.

3.2 Thereafter an Executive Management Committee will be set up consisting of Executive Officers of the Trust, which will meet once every half term. The theme of the each term's meeting will be 'performance' and 'holistic' (holistic includes safeguarding, LAC, Community Voice, Health and Safety and Budget Monitoring). This committee will report directly to the Trust Board Standards Committee, with this Committee holding the CEO to account for the performance of the school throughout its initial 18 month of opening.

3.3 The Trust will aim to install a transitional LGB after 18 months of post-opening, chaired by the Trust CEO or other Executive Leader. This Board will be similar to an Interim Executive Board, with its own bespoke terms of reference. These arrangements will remain in place until the School has secured Good or better at an Ofsted inspection.



- 3.4 Approved minutes of the Transitional Local Governing Body will be included on the academy's website.
- 3.5 Governor Interests will be reviewed every meeting and the Nexus MAT Registers Of Interest will be included on the academy website. All individual Governor information in relation to Interests and Attendance will be found within individual Governor profiles, and all governors will be recorded on the Department's 'Get Information About Schools' online system.

4. Recruitment of Local Governors

- 4.1 The Trust has a published code of conduct for all those holding a governance position, and the checks undertaken at recruitment scope where there may be any conflicts of interest so that these can be referred to Directors for a decision on whether these rule an individual out. The Trust has also published an agreed procedure for the investigation and/or removal of any holder of a governance position should concerns arise.
- 4.2 The Trust will work with local business and the local community to recruit to the membership of the LGB. The Trust already uses the Inspiring Governance and the Academy Ambassadors services to support the recruitment of local governors.

5. Governor Development

- 5.1 All Governors will undertake induction training that is provided by the Trust and will have access to training and development opportunities provided by our Teaching School Hub partners, the NGA and the Confederation of School Trusts.

6. Further Information

- 6.1 The Trust has a wide range of policies and procedures published on its website www.nexusmat.org
- 6.2 Clerking Services are also a key point of information and support, and can be contacted via email at clerkingservices@nexusmat.org