



About National Leaders of Governance support

National Leaders of Governance (NLG) support is funded by the Department for Education (DfE) for eligible schools and delivered by the National Governance Association (NGA). It provides bespoke and quality assured support to develop governance.

It is part of the DfE's funded trust and school improvement offer. The DfE's aim is for NLG support to strengthen governance oversight and leadership at board level. Improving the quality of governance and the strategic decisions made by boards will lift the overall performance of the school.

About the National Leaders of Governance

The National Leaders of Governance (NLGs) who provide the support are experienced governors, trustees, governance professionals and consultants. There are over 60 designated NLGs, each having demonstrated the substantial and current governance experience and expertise needed to carry out the role to a high standard through a rigorous externally moderated assessment and induction process.

NGA provides NLGs with ongoing training, materials and support as well as quality assuring their work to ensure they remain at the forefront of governance policy and practice.

NLGs will provide governance expertise and recommendations largely through external reviews of governance. They may also be able to provide follow up support.

“ An objective independent external review of the effectiveness of the board can be a more powerful diagnostic tool than a self-evaluation. This is particularly important before the board undertakes any significant change... It is crucial that a board takes this recommendation for an external review as a wake-up call and moves promptly and decisively to commission a high-quality independent review and act upon its plan of actions to improve its effectiveness. ”

Governance Handbook, effective October 2020.

External reviews of governance

Our high-quality, independent and objective reviews are supportive and developmental. They are designed to help realise the full potential of governance in your school. A review will provide an assessment of strengths and areas for development. An NLG looks at how well the board is performing and seeks to make recommendations to improve the effectiveness of its work.

Within a year of the review taking place, governance should be more effective and there should be evidence of improvement in the school.

“ Effective governance absolutely underpins our continuing efforts to raise standards in our schools. Governors and trustees play a crucial role in our education system, serving with dedication and commitment for the benefit of our children and young people. ”

Baroness Barran, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the School System

Benefits of an external review of governance

- Keeps your board up to date with governance best practice
- Helps governance stay live in response to the school's needs and external environment
- Prepares your board for your school's future needs
- Appraises the effectiveness of challenge and support for the headteacher
- Evaluates the skills, diversity and balance of perspectives of the governors
- Ensures a clear distinction between strategic and operational leadership
- Refines your model and practice of governance
- Provides an independent view on your practice
- Offers an opportunity to consider the impact your board's decisions make on pupils and outcomes
- Enables you to understand how your board has the potential to effect outstanding governance
- Ensures that the board is compliant in meeting its legal responsibilities

How NLG support works



About the National Governance Association



NGA is at the forefront of knowledge and understanding of school governance. We are the membership organisation for governors, trustees and governance professionals of state schools in England.

Our aim is to improve the educational standards and wellbeing of children and young people by increasing the effectiveness of governing boards and promoting high standards. Governance has been at our core since we were established in 2006.

We are expert leaders in school and trust governance, providing information, advice and guidance, professional development and e-learning. We represent the views of those governing at a national level and work closely with, and lobby, UK government and educational bodies.

NGA has extensive experience of carrying out external reviews of governance reviews in all types of schools and trusts. Our consultants have delivered over 400 external reviews making us the one of the most experienced providers in England.