

Role of a Local Academy Board Member

Purpose of Role

To contribute to the work of the LAB in ensuring high standards of achievement for all children in the school by holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils.

Ofsted expects that *“those responsible for governance understand their role and carry this out effectively. They ensure that the provider has a clear vision and strategy and that resources are managed well. They hold leaders to account for the quality of education.”*

Activities:

As part of the LAB team, a LAB member is expected to

1. Contribute to the strategic discussions at LAB meetings which determine:
 - a. the vision and ethos of the school
 - b. clear and ambitious strategic priorities and targets for the school
 - c. that all children, including those with special educational needs, have access to a broad and balanced curriculum
 - d. the principles to be used by school leaders to set other school policies
2. Hold executive leaders to account by monitoring the school’s performance; this includes
 - a. agreeing the outcomes from the school’s self-evaluation and ensuring they are used to inform the priorities in the school improvement plan
 - b. considering all relevant data and feedback provided on request by school leaders and external sources on all aspects of school performance
 - c. asking challenging questions of school leaders
 - d. ensuring senior leaders have arranged for the required audits to be carried out and receiving the results of those audits
 - e. ensuring the school is operating effectively according to its policies
 - f. acting as a link LAB Member on a specific issue, making relevant enquiries of the relevant staff, and reporting to the LAB on the progress on the relevant school priority
 - g. listening to and reporting to the school’s stakeholders: pupils, parents, staff, and the wider community, including local employers
3. Ensure the school staff have the resources and support they require to do their jobs well, including the necessary expertise on business management, external advice where necessary, effective appraisal and CPD (Continuing Professional Development), and suitable premises and that the way in which those resources are used has impact.
4. When required, serve on panels of LAB Members to:
 - a. appoint the headteacher and other senior leaders
 - b. contribute to the appraisal the headteacher (chair)
 - c. hear the third stage of parental complaints
 - d. review the headteacher’s decision to exclude a pupil

The role of a LAB Member is largely a thinking and questioning role, not a doing role. A LAB Member does not:

- a. write school policies
- b. undertake audits of any sort – whether financial or health & safety - even if the LAB Member has the relevant professional experience

- c. spend much time with the pupils of the school – if you want to work directly with children, there are many other voluntary valuable roles within the school
- d. fundraise – this is the role of the PTA – the LAB may consider income streams and the potential for income generation, but not carry out fundraising tasks
- e. undertake classroom observations to make judgements on the quality of teaching – the LAB monitors the quality of teaching in the school by requiring data from the senior staff and from external sources
- f. do the job of the school staff; if there is not enough capacity within the paid staff team to carry out the necessary tasks, the LAB need to consider and raise this is a concern with the trustees

Expectations

There will be at least five meetings per year held online or in school. LAB members are expected to read any papers issued for meetings in advance.

In order to perform this role well, a LAB Member is expected to:

- a. get to know the school, including visiting the school occasionally during school hours and in agreement with the headteacher, and gaining a good understanding of the school's strengths and weaknesses
- b. attend induction training and regular relevant training and development events
- c. act in the best interests of all the pupils of the school
- d. behave in a professional manner, as set down in the LAB's code of conduct, including acting in strict confidence.

Expenses

The role of a LAB member is voluntary and unpaid. LAB members may receive out of pocket expenses incurred as a result of fulfilling their role.

Safeguarding

LAB members will be required to undergo a DBS check and provide evidence of their identity.

Term of Office

LAB members are appointed for a four year term of office.