



## **Information for Prospective Governors**

Thank you for your interest in joining our family of Governors. This document should give you some insight into what to expect. There is a lot to learn and do, much of which will be enjoyable, particularly the tasks which bring you into contact with the school staff and pupils.

You do not have to be an 'expert' or 'professional' to be a good school governor, but you should be able to assist in setting the strategic direction of the school. All new and experienced governors are expected to commit to training which is vital for you to remain fully up to date with changes in legislation which effect all schools.

BDAT supports and encourages peer to peer support amongst Governors and provides termly updates and key educational information which is relevant to their role. The time Governors dedicate to the role is highly valued by the Trust and we are dedicated to developing the strength of our governing bodies.

The information below sets out what is needed to fulfill your role as a BDAT governor.

### **Deciding which Academy you would like to support**

Visit the Trust and Academy websites and start the process of getting a more detailed understanding of the information that it contains. Look out for the school's vision, values and strategic plan, the most recent Ofsted report, current headline performance data as this will help you understand the context of the school and the makeup of the school community.

### **Time commitment and regular attendance at meetings**

Prospective governors should know that the average amount of time you should set aside for your governor duties is approximately 6-8 hours per half term. This includes reading documents from the academy, attending meetings and undertaking visits into the academy.

Governors should also undertake regular training, this may be provided through the academy in a service level agreement. BDAT also offers training to governors on the statutory information you need to fulfil your role.

### **Membership of a Governing Body Committee**

Much of the work of the governing body takes place through governing body committees. Ideally every governor should serve on at least one committee. You can ask to see the Terms of Reference for these committees so you understand their remit. Committees provide good opportunities for new governors to get involved right away and because the group is small it is easier to take a full part in all discussions.

