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Governors  
for Schools  
Conference  
2022.

# Good Governance in 2022

**#GfSConference2022**



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Steve Barker



Linda Waghorn

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@bettermgovernor



# Aims of today's session:

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to explore what good governance of schools looks like in 2022, moving forward into 2023;



to reflect on the key drivers in education and how these should inform board discussions;



to ensure governors know how to contribute individually and collectively to better governance.



# The backdrop

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## Governance handbook

Academy trusts and maintained schools

October 2020



## A Competency Framework for Governance

The knowledge, skills and behaviours needed for effective governance in maintained schools, academies and multi-academy trusts

January 2017

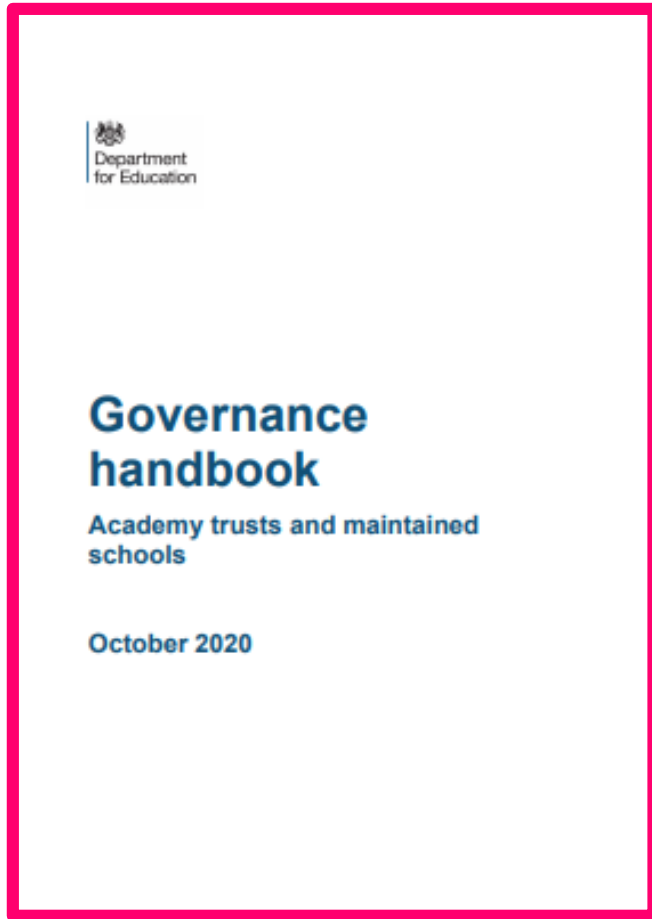


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# The statutory role of governance

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- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.



# The statutory role of governance

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## A Competency Framework for Governance

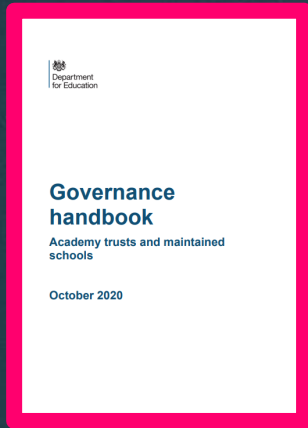
The knowledge, skills and behaviours needed for effective governance in maintained schools, academies and multi-academy trusts

January 2017

- Strategic leadership
- Accountability
- People
- Structures
- Compliance
- Self evaluation



# What drives governance?



The governance duty is, above all, to drive relentless ambition for the young people served by our schools system, whatever the circumstances.





So what should our priorities be  
in 2022?

Every Child  
Matters!  
Balancing our  
budget  
Pupil performance



# Pupil Performance:

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- knowing and understanding 2022 assessment and examination outcomes;
- understanding your post-Covid context;
- so what! (....have we done about it?)
- impact of interventions thus far;
- knowing how in year assessment outcomes are shared.
- Understanding data, if/when published.



# A word on context

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Understanding your post-Covid context:

- Has it changed?
- Don't lose sight of all groups across the spectrum in your.
- Governance duty is for all pupils including more able, middle ability, university entrants etc.



# Balancing the budget:

**GOV.UK** Topics

Home > [Education, training and skills](#)

Press release

## Government delivers landmark rises to teachers' salaries

Teacher starting salaries to see 8.9% uplift in September this year, reaching £28,000

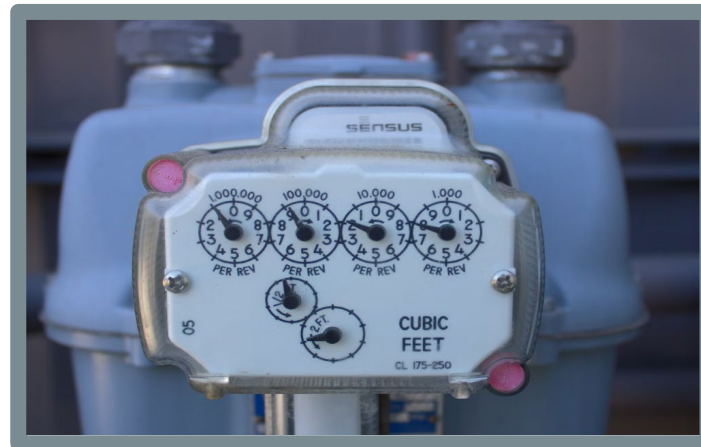
From: [Department for Education](#) and [The Rt Hon James Cleverly MP](#)  
Published 19 July 2022

## Support Staff Pay Award 2022/23

Update: July 2022

The National Employers have submitted a [one-year \(1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023\) final offer](#) to the unions representing the main local government NJC workforce:

- With effect from 1 April 2022, an increase of £1,925 on all NJC pay points 1 and above; this equates to 10.5% at the bottom of the pay spine, through to 4.04% at the top of the pay spine.
- With effect from 1 April 2022, an increase of 4.04% on all allowances (as listed in the 2021 NJC pay agreement circular dated 28 February 2022).
- With effect from 1 April 2023, an increase of one day to all employees' annual leave entitlement.
- With effect from 1 April 2023, the deletion of pay point 1 from the NJC pay spine.



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# Inflation and the role of governance:

- Ensure you know what is happening;
  - impact of staff pay awards (total)
  - energy cost projections;
  - deficit on FSM
  - in-year budget deficit?
- update budget outturn & three-year plan
- taking action



# Taking action:

A green plant sprout with two leaves is growing out of the top of a clear glass jar. The jar is filled with several coins, including a prominent copper coin. The background is a blurred, textured surface in shades of blue and white.

- additional/single-focus finance meeting;
- increased revenue v reducing costs;
  - Admissions, lettings, donations and grants?
  - energy reduction, staff restructuring?
- act now, don't wait!
- recurring agenda item.



# Social and economic deprivation – the impact in our schools

- hungry children and young people;
- inability to afford school meals;
- school uniform concerns;
- domestic abuse;
- Mental health and well-being concerns.

How will we know?



# Questions for governors to ask:

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- Have we got hungry children & if so, what are we doing?
- Is the school monitoring changes in deprivation?
- Do we have a hardship fund?
- Are we compliant with school uniform regulations – have we reviewed?
- Are staff fully trained in recognising signs of potential mental health concerns and those of domestic abuse?



# Other considerations:

- attendance;
- curriculum development;
- the academisation question;
- staff workload and well being;
- staff training and development;
- are Ofsted coming?



# Prepare for the challenge.

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- continue to engage in your own development and training;
- conduct your own research;
- network with other governors;
- Engage in working parties/additional meetings;
- prepare for meetings.



# Effective meetings = effective governance

- research what is happening in education
- Read meeting papers;
- Plan your questions;
- think question trails;
- listen and respond;
- Participate and expect participation.



# Any questions?

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# What you need to know, when you need to know it



Better Governor researches, interprets and distils the latest news in education policy, legislation and practice keeping you informed on how they impact your role as a governor or clerk.

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