Learning Link modules

With over 60 governance modules aligned to NGA's Knowledge Centre, our suite of 10 collections cover:

Core modules

A suite of eight modules covering key governance areas, perfect for those new to governance or those looking for a refresher. (These modules are included within each of the categories below).

Modules	Duration
Governance: Your role, your responsibilities, your organisation	2 hours
Your organisation: Understanding school structures and what children should learn	2 hours
Strategy: Living your values, reaching your vision, managing the risk	2 hours
Progress and attainment: using data to improve educational outcomes	2 hours
Finance: Making the most of what you've got	2 hours
Working Together: Building the team and improving the organisation	1 hour 30 minutes
Compliance: Assuring your organisation, keeping it safe, secure and solvent	1 hour 30 minutes
Effectiveness: Governance making an impact, changing lives	1 hour 30 minutes

Structures, roles and responsibilities

These modules will help you to understand school and trust structures, and what is expected of you as a governor or trustee.

Modules	Duration
Governance: Your role, your responsibilities, your organisation	2 hours
Getting it right as a staff governor	50 minutes
Key Functions of the governing board	55 minutes
Different Models of Governance	55 minutes

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Good governance

These modules aim to help you improve the effectiveness of your governing board, including visiting your school or schools, Ofsted inspections and succession planning.

Modules	Duration
Effectiveness: Governance making an impact, changing lives	1 hour 30 minutes
Working Together: Building the team and improving the organisation	1 hour 30 minutes
Handling difficult situations	55 minutes
Ofsted and the new inspection framework	45 minutes
Governance visits to schools	10 minutes
Succession Planning	40 minutes
Governance monitoring: A tool to help drive improvement	10 minutes
Holding to account: How to question and challenge	15 minutes
Holding to account: How to conduct a courageous conversation	15 minutes
Ethical Leadership: A planning tool	Up to 45 minutes
Ofsted inspections: Step-by-step	45 minutes

Vision, ethos and strategic direction

Covering risk management, evaluating effectiveness and your role in school improvement, these modules will help you shape your school or trust's strategic direction.

Modules	Duration
Equality, diversity and inclusion: First steps	10 minutes
NEW Equality, diversity and inclusion: Beyond compliance	15 minutes
Strategy: Living your values, reaching your vision, managing the risk	2 hours
Monitoring and evaluation	55 minutes
Creating a new vision for your school or trust	15 minutes

Pupil success and wellbeing

These modules focus on the core purpose of your schools or trust – the quality of education it should be providing to pupils.

Modules	Duration
Your organisation: Understanding school structures and what children should learn	2 hours
Progress and attainment: using data to improve educational outcomes	2 hours
Arts, culture and creativity: improving your school or trust and its curriculum	45 minutes
Early Years Education	1 hour
Monitoring performance data and targets	50 minutes
The governance of SEND	30 minutes
Looked after children	55 minutes
Pupil Premium	55 minutes
Minimising exclusions	15 minutes
Panel work: An introduction	25 minutes
How to: review suspensions and exclusions	45 minutes
How to: run an effective admissions appeal panel	45 minutes
How to: run an effective HR review panel	45 minutes
How to: run an effective complaints review panel	45 minutes

Staffing

These modules cover the key stages in the lead executive recruitment process and the critical role the board has in holding executive leaders to account through effective headteacher appraisal.

Modules	Duration
Headteacher recruitment - succession planning	55 minutes
Headteacher appraisal and capability	55 minutes
Setting performance objectives for executive leaders	15 minutes
Recruiting a senior executive leader	1 hour
Managing staff workload and wellbeing: The governance role	15 minutes

Stakeholder engagement

Find out about key partners and stakeholders, how to develop relationships with them, and how engagement with stakeholders can lead to better outcomes for pupils.

Modules	Duration
Stakeholder engagement: The governance role	15 minutes

Finance

These modules will provide you with the tools and approaches for developing financial efficiency in your school or trust.

Modules	Duration
Finance: Making the most of what you've got	2 hours
Understanding schools finance	1 hour
Managing Academy Finance	1 hour 15 minutes
Using Integrated Curriculum and Financial Planning (ICFP)	15 minutes

Compliance

Covering key areas of compliance such as safeguarding, health and safety and admissions, these modules will make you aware of the most important points from legislation and guidance.

Modules	Duration
Compliance: Assuring your organisation, keeping it safe, secure and solvent	1 hour 30 minutes
Equality and Diversity: A practical guide for governors and trustees	1 hour
NEW Safeguarding: How to fulfil the governance role	1 hour
Health and Safety	1 hour

Clerking

These modules will help new and experienced clerks to get a better understanding of their role and how to carry it out well.

Modules	Duration
Panel work: An introduction	25 minutes
How to: review suspensions and exclusions	45 minutes
How to: run an effective admissions appeal panel	45 minutes
How to: run an effective HR review panel	45 minutes
How to: run an effective complaints review panel	45 minutes
Welcome to the introduction to clerking programme	10 minutes
What does the governance professional do?	40 minutes
How governance works	40 minutes
How to: clerk in different types of school organisation	20 minutes
How to: find and use key sources for governance	30 minutes
How to: arrange meetings	20 minutes
How to minute a meeting effectively	40 minutes
How to: manage information and documents	10 minutes
How to support the recruitment, appointment, election and retirement of governors and trustees	30 minutes
Clerking in new contexts: MAT local governance tier	2 hours
Clerking in new contexts: LA maintained governing board	2 hours
Clerking in new contexts: Academy trust boards	2 hours
NEW How to: support the development of the board	30 minutes
NEW How to: become a trusted advisor	30 minutes
NEW How to: clerk courageously	30 minutes

MATs

This module explores key challenges for multi academy trusts, common pitfalls, and what effective MAT governance looks like.

Modules	Duration
Effective MAT Governance	1 hour 15 minutes

Bitesize modules

A selection of modules in easily digestible bite-sized chunks that take between 5 and 15 minutes to complete.

- Minimising exclusions
- Governance monitoring: A tool to help drive improvement
- Governance visits to schools
- Setting performance objectives for executive leaders
- Creating a new vision for your school or trust
- Holding to account: How to conduct a courageous conversation
- Holding to account: How to question and challenge
- Using Integrated Curriculum and Financial Planning (ICFP) to resource the best curriculum for your pupils
- Staff workload
- Stakeholder engagement

Introduction to clerking programme

- Welcome to the introduction to clerking programme
- What does the governance professional do?
- How governance works
- How to: clerk in different types of school organisation
- How to: find and use key sources for governance
- How to: arrange meetings
- How to minute a meeting effectively
- How to: manage information and documents
- How to support the recruitment, appointment, election and retirement of governors and trustees

Hot topics

A range of resources covering current governance-related issues for you to download and keep.

- Executive Pay
- GDPR: An overview for governors
- Governor Recruitment
- Improving School Accountability
- Mentally Healthy Schools

Further online modules

Included in the NGA learning Link offer are a range of modules developed by Virtual College for a wider audience, which provide useful background information on a range of topics with relevance to governance such as important aspects of safeguarding and health and safety.