

Governance in Abingdon Learning Trust

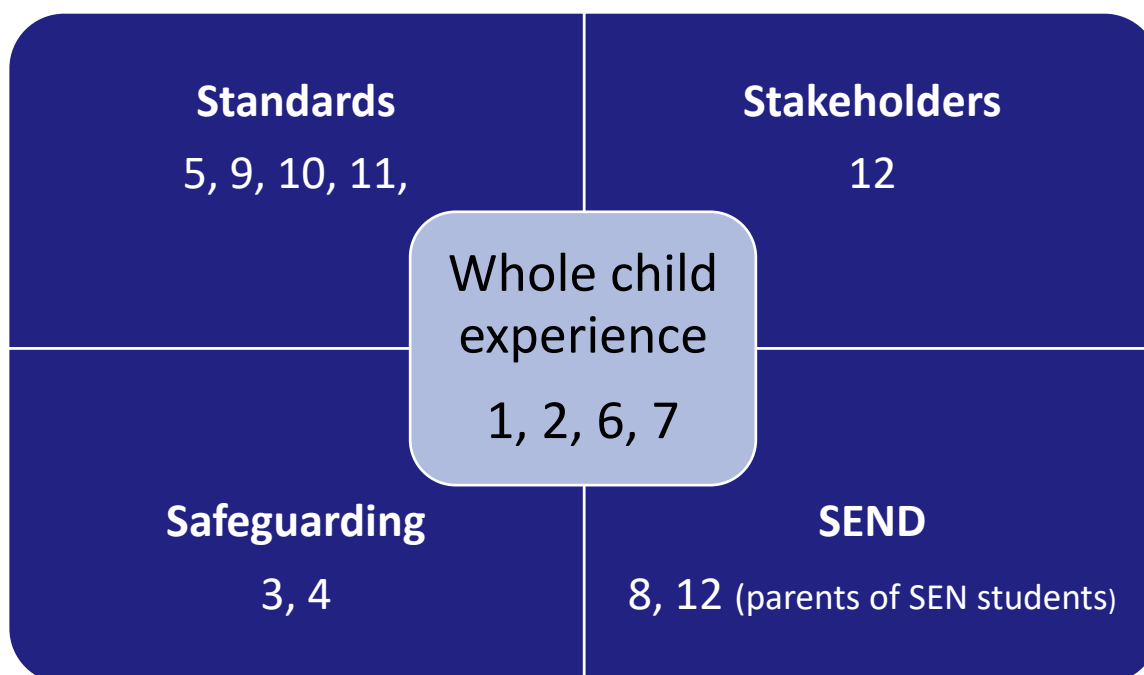


The Trust Board has all the statutory responsibilities and accountabilities. It is the Chair of the Trustees' name on an Ofsted report, not the Chair of the local committee. There are scrutiny committees – cross-Trust ones are Educational Standards, Finance and General Purposes and Compliance, and then each school has a local governance scrutiny committee called a Local Academy Committee (LAC), focussing on their school.

The responsibilities for a Local Academy Committee

We ask governors to focus their time and commitment on what has the biggest impact for the children and young people in their schools.

There are four domains – Standards, Safeguarding, SEND and Stakeholders. The diagram shows how the domains link up and we ask each governor to take on a portfolio role to cover these domains.



The governor roles:

1. Chair
2. Vice-chair
3. Safeguarding
4. Site Security
5. Standards (progress and attainment)
6. Teaching and Learning and Assessment
7. Curriculum
8. SEN
9. Disadvantaged groups (Pupil Premium, Alternative Provision and other/s)
10. Attendance, Behaviour and student experience

11. Early Years/Sixth form (depending on primary or secondary)
12. Stakeholder engagement (annual parent/staff/student surveys for example)

Each governor with a portfolio becomes the expert in their area for the LAC, over time. Less experienced or new governors might want to 'double up' as they build knowledge and confidence.

The roles of Chair and Vice Chair provide the overview and ensure that all aspects of education and pupil and student experience are covered.

Responsibilities that are not in the list above include finance monitoring and budget setting. In an academy trust the responsibility and accountability is with the Trust Board, unlike a local authority school, where it lies with the school. The Headteacher of each school works closely with the COO and central finance team on this area, and the Trust Board monitor (as they have to, on a monthly basis).

Similarly, H&S is monitored by the Trust Board, again with the accountability in law, and reducing the delegated responsibility to the LAC for site security and safety, which closely aligns with safeguarding. The Central Team and Executive reports directly to the Trust Board in these areas.

By focussing the scope of local governance, more time is available to focus on the children and young people.

Stakeholder engagement – knowing what the staff, students and community think about their school – is a key function of local governors. The Trust Board relies on governors, in their school's community, to know the stakeholders' views and feed key information to the Trust Board.

