


 #oegovernance

# Building and Maintaining Strategic Governance

Effectively implement the DfE's new framework on governance in schools,  
academies and MATs

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Expert speakers include:

**Emma Knights**

Chief Executive, National Governance Association

**Caroline Collins**

Head of School Business Strategy & Resources,  
Miles Coverdale Primary School

**Victoria Clifford**

Chair of Governors, St Bede's School

## KEY BENEFITS

### FINANCE

Ensure a robust  
budget process

### STRUCTURES

Discover best practice  
governance at MAT level

### TRANSITION

Ensure effective legacy  
planning

# Building and Maintaining Strategic Governance

## Effectively implement the DfE's new framework on governance in schools, academies and MATS

Governance in schools is increasingly under the spotlight, with headline-grabbing cases highlighting cases of poor governance and school management. School funding is a real cause for concern and balancing the budget is an increasing challenge for governors and trustees.

Academisation has seen the role of governing boards in individual schools change, and confusion reigns about what structures are most effective. The pressures and responsibilities on individual governors have never been greater as boards are being measured against a broader and more professional, business-focused set of competencies.

In the face of such change, what does strong, effective and strategic governance now look like? How can governors and trustees best support schools and govern ethically and effectively to protect the quality of education in times of financial constraint?

### Key highlights on the day include:

- Clarify DfE expectations of your governing board and understand the ingredients for success
- Explore structures for best practice governance at Trust level in MATs
- Understand what governors should really be looking out for in finance meetings
- Recognise how the latest legislation and new guidance impacts your governing board
- Ensure effective legacy planning for senior leaders of schools and governing boards

### Who should attend?

- Headteachers/Principals
- Chairs and Vice Chairs of Governors
- Aspiring Chairs of Governors
- Clerks
- Deputy and Assistant Head Teachers

Optimus Education offers a wealth of expertise to support your whole school improvement. From non-curricular awards, timely and informative conferences, packaged and bespoke consultancy, to in-house training and membership, Optimus is your one-stop-shop for your school or academy.

Head to [oego.co/governance](https://oego.co/governance) to find out more.

## SPEAKERS



### Emma Knights

#### Chief Executive, National Governance Association

Emma Knights is Chief Executive of the National Governance Association (NGA) - the leading charity for guidance, research, advice and training for school governors and trustees. Prior to her appointment in 2010 she was joint CEO of the Daycare Trust. Before that, she worked in a number of roles in the voluntary sector, particularly in the Legal Services Commission, Citizens Advice and the Local Government Association. As well as leading projects on child poverty and educational attainment, Emma has written on a wide range of topics and is co-author of the *Chair's Handbook*.



### Caroline Collins, FNASBM MA(Ed)

#### Specialist Leader of Education, Head of School Business Strategy & Resources, Miles Coverdale Primary School

Caroline Collins has been Head of School Business (School Business Manager) of Miles Coverdale Primary School for 7 years and works closely with the SLT and governors on a daily basis. Prior to this Caroline worked in Governor Services at a large LA. Her role involved advising Governors, Heads and Clerks on discharging their statutory duties and she wrote a number of guidance publications, worked closely advising county councillors on governor appointments, arranged forum briefings for governors as well as wrote, published and delivered a number of training programmes for governors and clerks. In addition to this Caroline was the assessor for clerks undertaking the BTEC national accreditation programme.



### Matt Miller

#### National Leader of Governance and Chair of Governors, Highlands School

Matt was selected in the first cohort of National Leaders of Governance (NLG) in March 2012 and mentors and coaches Chairs of Governors in schools across north and east London as part of the 'System Leadership' programme. As the 'Strategic Lead for Governance' in Enfield Local Authority, he has developed and implemented a Local Leader of Governance (LLG) programme. Matt is also the Chair of Governors at an 'outstanding' north London secondary school which has presented an interesting range of challenges since it opened its doors as the country's first purpose built PFI School in 2000.



### Victoria Clifford

#### Chair of Governors, St Bede's School

Victoria Clifford is an Additional Skills Governor for Surrey LA (similar to Local Leaders of Governance elsewhere) and is part of the National Governors' Association Chairs' mentoring programme. She spoke about schools' funding on the BBC Radio 4 'Today' programme. Victoria has governed different types of school - primary, secondary, inner city and suburban, faith and LA. For the past four years she has chaired governors at St Bede's school, Surrey, one of the largest secondary schools in the country. Despite deep budgets cuts, with her team, she led it to 'Outstanding' at Ofsted in 2017.



### Linda Talbot

#### Lead Advisor for Leadership and School Effectiveness, EES for Schools

Linda has over 20 years' experience across all primary age ranges including subject leadership. She spent 10 years as a Primary headteachers, 5 years as a Primary School Improvement Partner, 2 years as a School Improvement Adviser and 3 years as an Education Adviser. Amongst her areas of expertise are leadership development at all levels, supporting school effectiveness, headteacher performance management and developing performance management systems to support school improvement. Linda has designed the framework for Optimus Education's Effective School Governance Award.



### Mark Blois

#### Partner & Head of Education, Brown Jacobson LLP

Mark Blois heads up the Education team at Browne Jacobson and has more than twenty years' experience as an education lawyer. He has been recommended as a leader in his field in 'Chambers UK' and 'Legal 500' for more than ten years and was designated a National Leader of Governance by the NCTL in 2015.

He has previously served as a member of the Regional Council of the Learning and Skills Council, as a Director of the National Governance Association and on the Board of a 157 Group FE College. Mark is currently the Chair of the L.E.A.D Academy Trust, a large multi-academy trust in the Midlands and is also a long-standing Teach First mentor.

09:00 – 09:45 Registration and refreshments

09:45 – 10:00 Chair's Introduction & Welcome

10:00 – 10:30 **Clarifying DfE expectations of your governing board. Understanding the ingredients for a successful governing board**  
**Keynote 1**  
*Speaker to be confirmed*

10:30 – 11:00 **Govern ethically and effectively to protect the quality of education in times of financial constraint**  
**Keynote 2**  
*Emma Knights, Chief Executive, National Governance Association*

11:00 – 11:10 Questions

11:10 – 11:40 Morning Refreshments

## 11:40 – 12:30 Streamed Sessions 1

### 1A: Finance and Budgets

**What should governors really be looking out for in finance meetings?**

Learn from an experienced SBM about effective challenge and build checklist of questions to ensure robust budgeting

*Caroline Collins, FNASBM, MA(Ed) Specialist Leader of Education, Head of School Business Strategy & Resources, Miles Coverdale Primary School*

### 1B: Data

**Gain the confidence to analyse and interpret ASP correctly**

Understand the impact of ASP and how to use this data to drive outcomes for students.

### 1C: MAT Session

**Explore structures for best practice governance at Trust level in MATs**

Review model schemes of delegation and understand how they can work for you.

*Sam Henson, Head of Information, National Governance Association*

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch, networking and exhibition

13:30 – 14:00 **Legal update: Recognise how the latest legislation and new guidance impacts your governing board and comply with your new and ongoing statutory obligations**  
**Keynote 3**  
*Mark Blois, Partner & Head of Education, Brown Jacobson LLP*

14:00 – 14:10 Questions

## 14:10 – 15:00 Streamed Sessions 2

### 2A: Ofsted

**A case study on how to improve a school's Ofsted rating whilst also implementing budget cuts**

Hear the story of a school's journey to Outstanding  
*Victoria Clifford, Chair of Governors St Bede's School*

### 2B: Recruitment

**Finding the right people to join your governing board**

Identify the skills you need and learn new recruitment methods.

*Judith Hicks, Head of Inspiring Governance, National Governance Association*

### 2C: MAT Session

**Evaluating the effectiveness of governance across a MAT**

Undertaking self-reviews and demonstrating impact through collation of high quality evidence

*Matt Miller MBE, National Leader of Governance Advocate*

15:00 – 15:30 Afternoon refreshments

## 15:30 – 16:20 Streamed Sessions 3

### 3A: Self Evaluation

**A Toolkit of essential techniques to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of your school and develop an efficient improvement plan**

*Linda Talbot, Lead Advisor for Leadership and School Effectiveness, EES for Schools*

### 3B: Strategic Vision and School Priorities

**Ensure that the SLT and GB work cohesively together to articulate the school's vision and priorities. Who should be consulted and how.**

*Fiona Carnie, Author – Rebuilding our Schools from the Bottom Up*

### 3C: Transition

**Ensure effective legacy planning for senior leaders of schools and governing boards**

*Matt Miller MBE, National Leader of Governance Advocate*

16:20 Conference Close

# Building and Maintaining Strategic Governance

One Day National Conference - Wednesday 31 January 2018 - London

## How to register

1. Book online and receive instant confirmation  
**[oego.co/governance](http://oego.co/governance)**
2. Email: [oe.conferences@optimus-education.com](mailto:oe.conferences@optimus-education.com)
3. Questions: Call 0845 450 6404

**Please see** [www.oego.co/TandCs](http://www.oego.co/TandCs) for our subscriptions, cancellations and refund policy

Booking reference

## Pricing

### Prices

Primary - includes one complimentary place for another member of your governing board	£349 + VAT
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Secondary - includes one complimentary place for another member of your governing board	£399 + VAT
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Volunteer Governor	£150 + VAT
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Local Authority	£429 + VAT
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Premium Plus*	
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this event may be part of your subscription. For further details contact your account manager

**If you do not fit into one of the above categories, please contact us on 0845 450 6404 or email [oe.conferences@optimus-education.com](mailto:oe.conferences@optimus-education.com)**

## 4 steps for strategic Governance

1

**Before**  
the day

Login to your account at **[oego.co/governance](http://oego.co/governance)** and gain access to pre-event reading and resources

### PLUS

- Use the self-assessment survey to reflect on your current situation
- Download your governor self-evaluation form
- Access the list of questions to ask your school business manager review

\* Don't have an account? Create one at **[oego.co/Delegate](http://oego.co/Delegate)**

2

**During**  
the day

Gain a vital opportunity to discuss challenges with peers and build up a network of support and contacts

### PLUS

- Select targeted workshops to suit your specific needs
- Ask your key questions to experts and speakers on the day
- Collect your copy of **Getting Governance Right: a collection of MAT case studies**

3

**After**  
the day

Log in at **[oego.co/governance](http://oego.co/governance)** to access the guide for carrying out a headteacher performance review

### PLUS

- Use the self-assessment survey to identify new strengths and action points
- Download the governor skills audit to assess and evidence the skills members have and determine strengths and weaknesses of the board

4

**Share**  
across your school

Become an Optimus Premium Plus member and gain resources to aid your external CPD delivery\*

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