

Types of Governor

The Academy Governing Body consists of both elected and appointed Governors. These positions are described below. For a list of the current Governors and their dates of appointment, see the Governor Gallery link on the left.

Irrespective of how they became Governors, all members of the Governing Body work in the best interests of the school.

Parent Governors

The Articles of Association require at least two elected Parent Governors (fully independent schools are not required to have any). The Members of the Academy Trust have determined that Brine Leas will have five Parent Governors, and these are nominated and elected under exactly the same arrangements as applied to the old maintained school.

Parent Governors are parents or carers of children enrolled at the school at the time of their appointment. Should their child(ren) leave Brine Leas during their term of office, they may continue on the Governing Body until the end of their four year term. Vacancies for Parent Governors must be notified to all parents and nominations requested. A ballot of all parents is held if there are more nominations than posts available. The retiring Parent Governor(s) can stand for re-election if they still have a child at the school, but not otherwise. All the current Brine Leas Parent Governors were elected in 2010, so barring resignations vacancies will not arise until 2014.

Staff Governors

The Articles of Association limit the number of elected Staff Governors to four. The Members of the Academy Trust have decided to maintain the same arrangement as existed for the old maintained school, namely two elected teacher governors plus one elected non-teacher. The Principal takes a further Staff Governor position on an ex-officio basis.

Local Authority Governor

The Members of the Academy Trust have reserved one governor position for a Local Authority nomination in order to maintain liaison with the authority and maintained schools in the area.

Appointed Governors

Ten governor positions are appointed by the Members of the Academy Trust. All Appointed Governors have the same status, and the old distinctions of Community, Partnership and Sponsor Governors each with their own nomination process and stakeholder representation no longer apply. The Members have a broad discretion in making such appointments, subject to national guidelines on eligibility.

Appointed (but not elected Parent or Staff) Governors may be removed from office by unanimous vote of all other Governors, but clearly this would happen only in exceptional circumstances.

Appointed Governors serve the same four year term of office as elected Governors, but may be reappointed indefinitely. The Members have a responsibility to ensure that the Governing Body has an appropriate balance of experience and skills to maximise benefit to the school, and filling of any identified skill gaps will be an important element in future appointments. A small number of Appointed Governor positions are vacant at the present time, and these will be filled in due course.