



National College for
Teaching & Leadership

National leaders of governance

www.education.gov.uk/nationalcollege/national-leaders-of-governance

National leaders of governance are highly effective chairs of governors who use their skills and experience to support another chair of governors to improve school and academy performance.

National leaders of governance have contributed to raising standards in their own school or academy by providing appropriate support and challenge to their headteacher or principal and by developing their governing body.

All national leaders of governance have had training in coaching and mentoring and have at least three years' experience as chair within the last five years.

They aim to supplement existing sources of school-to-school support for governance offered by local authorities, dioceses, trusts and other partners.

In some situations, national leaders of governance may work alongside national leaders of education and local leaders of education.



How can a national leader of governance help me?

Topics that a chair of governors may want to work on with a national leader of governance will vary according to context, but could be amongst the following:

Raising school and academy performance:

- raising standards and leading improvement
- understanding and interpreting pupil performance data including RAISEonline

Providing support and challenge for the headteacher or principal:

- providing more effective support and challenge
- developing the chairs' relationship with the headteacher or principal

Governance process:

- developing the chairs' leadership, effectiveness and confidence
- reviewing governance procedures, protocols and behaviours
- mentoring a chair to provide support through a particular process

“The national leader of governance role has given me opportunities both to support other chairs in bringing about improvement in their schools and also to reflect on and develop my own practice. It's so important for the system that we share experience and this has been a great opportunity to do so”

Ruth Agnew
National leader of governance

How do I work with a national leader of governance?

Working with the local authority, and diocese where appropriate, a College associate can link a chair of governors to a national leader of governance. Once the chair of governors has identified the core area they want to review, they would meet with the national leader of governance and College associate to agree how they want to proceed. The College associate can remain as a contact for the chair throughout the placement, and undertake a review with the chair and national leader of governance.

To request support from a national leader of governance, email chair.ofgovernors@nationalcollege.gsi.gov.uk.