

Finding a Match

Question	Answer	Handy Tip
<p>I've registered, now what happens?</p>	<p>Once you have registered, governing boards seeking volunteers can see your profile online. If your skills and expertise match their criteria, they will send you a message via the system and set up a call to discuss your mutual expectations. If you agree to go ahead, you'll be invited to an informal interview.</p> <p>You can also see what vacancies are available in your area by clicking on 'Manage opportunities' in the top menu bar and then 'Search opportunities' towards the top right of the page. This will give you a map view of all the vacancies in your area. If you see a vacancy you would like to volunteer for, you can select it and message the school letting them know you are interested.</p>	<p>There is a short video that explains how the online matchmaking works.</p> <p>Not all schools choose to advertise their vacancies, so you could still be contacted by a school that isn't on the search map.</p>
<p>Will there be training available?</p>	<p>Yes. Once you accept a governance role, you'll have access to a range of support from the National Governance Association (NGA):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A dedicated telephone and email support line • NGA's 'Welcome to Governance' or 'Welcome to a Multi-Academy Trust' induction guide depending on where you have been placed • NGA's free, accessible online training package consisting of 8 modules designed as a comprehensive programme • access to NGA's online guidance centre containing a wealth of governance resources • For those under 40, access to the Young Governor Network 	<p>While you're waiting for the right vacancy to come along, check out the resources available at www.nga.org.uk and www.inspiringgovernance.org/resources</p> <p>Schools will also normally have their own induction programme for new governors and trustees.</p>
<p>A school has messaged me, but I'm not sure it's the right school for me. What should I do?</p>	<p>It can take time to find the right match. All we ask is that you respond to every invitation, even if it is to decline, so that schools can keep looking if they need to.</p> <p>When you're first contacted about a vacancy, the next step should be a phone call with the head or chair of governors for further exploratory talks.</p>	<p>It's easy to reply to a message, just tick one of the boxes at the bottom of the email to accept, decline or request more information.</p>

GUIDANCE FOR VOLUNTEERS

	They may also arrange for you to visit the school and interview, before confirming an appointment.	
I registered several weeks ago and I still haven't found a governor/trustee role.	<p>Please be patient! In some areas of the country we have lots of schools looking for governors, in other areas, there are far fewer. It can take several weeks for the right match to come along. This is also based on the specific skillset and experience they are looking for.</p> <p>New vacancies are being posted all the time, so login to your account to check whether you have received any messages and to see what's new in your area.</p> <p>If you really get stuck please email us at enquiries@inspiringgovernance.org and we will try to help.</p>	<p>While you're waiting for the right role, why not explore other volunteering opportunities. Go to 'Update profile' and then to the 'Volunteering opportunities' tab to select the opportunities you would like to get involved in. There are volunteer opportunities that take as little as an hour, and it's a great way to get to know how schools work.</p> <p>Add enquiries@inspiringgovernance.org to your email contacts to ensure that emails arrive in your inbox and not spam or junk mail.</p>
I'm still receiving invitations from schools, even though I've already accepted a position.	<p>If you accept an invitation through the system you will receive an email from us containing a link to our feedback form asking how it went and what the outcome was.</p> <p>However, if you're still receiving invites, please let us know you've accepted a role by emailing enquiries@inspiringgovernance.org. As an independent charity, it's important that we can show the impact of what we do, so by letting us know the outcome, you'll be helping to continue our work.</p>	<p>You can edit your volunteer activities anytime by logging into www.inspiringgovernance.org. Go to the 'Update Profile' tab and then to the 'Volunteering opportunities' tab. Untick the governance options.</p>

Using the Online Platform

Question	Answer	Handy Tip
How do I check which schools have previously messaged me?	Simply log in , and click on the 'Manage opportunities' tab. This will give you a list of all the schools that have contacted you. For more history about the vacancy, click on 'Archived messages' to the right of the vacancy. You can then select "Message" to send a further communication.	

GUIDANCE FOR VOLUNTEERS

How do I update my profile?	After you log in , click on the 'Update Profile' tab. This will let you edit your personal details and what activities you have selected to be involved in. Remember to scroll down and "Save."
I haven't received the email containing my temporary password.	Please check your junk box for an email containing the temporary password. If you can't find your password you can email enquiries@inspiringgovernance.org and we will reset it for you.

GUIDANCE FOR VOLUNTEERS

Good to Know

Question	Answer
What is the difference between a governor and a trustee?	<p>Generally, individuals who serve on local governing boards at school level are called ‘governors’ and those who sit on the boards of multi-academy trusts (or MATs, which are organisations or entities that are responsible for a number of schools) are called ‘trustees’.</p> <p>Their roles are broadly similar except that trust boards will be overseeing several schools and therefore will be dealing with larger budgets and more complex governing arrangements. With trusts, each school usually retains its own local governing board, but some of their responsibilities may be delegates to the trust board, for instance approving the budget and appointing the head.</p>
I’ve heard that there are different types of governors. What is the difference?	<p>Schools will normally have parent governors, staff governors, co-opted governors and sometimes local authority governors or trustee governors. See our guide that explains the different governor roles.</p> <p>Generally the roles and responsibilities are the same. The main difference how they come to be on the governing board – some are elected and some are invited to join following an interview process. If you accept a position through Inspiring Governor you will normally be a co-opted governor.</p> <p>MAT board trustees are almost always appointed rather than elected.</p>
Will I need a DBS (Disclosure & Barring Service) check?	<p>Yes. When you accept a position the school or trust will require an enhanced DBS check. They will normally organise this for you. It’s also important to note that anyone who has declared bankruptcy cannot serve as a governor.</p>
Is there any kind of payment for being a governor or trustee?	<p>Governance is a voluntary role and therefore it is not paid. Some schools and trusts may pay travel and other expenses, but this will vary.</p> <p>It is worth noting that serving as a governor is a great way to gain experience of professional skills such as chairing, strategic planning, budgeting and team work that are valued by employers.</p> <p>Plus, governors can have a huge impact on the education of young people in their communities, and there’s no greater feeling than knowing you’ve made a difference!</p>