



TAKE A CLOSER LOOK

# Joining a School Governing Board

## Advice for engineers

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# Top tips for the governor interview process

We are delighted you have decided to sign up as a school governor or trustee.

As an engineer, you have the ideal skill set for joining a governing board and any school would be very fortunate to have your support.

Once you have been matched with a school, you will likely be invited to an interview with the Chair of Governors to discuss your interest in the role and how you can best add value.

This process is simply a way of bringing to life your particular skills and experience, your enthusiasm for the position and how your expertise can benefit the rest of the governing board. You can also ask any questions you may have about what will be expected of you as a governor.

Here are some tips for making the most out of this conversation...

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## 1. Your experience as an engineer will be invaluable to any school.

Before the interview, it might be useful to think of some practical examples of your role where you have demonstrated:

- Your ability to challenge and ask questions
- Strategic leadership and project management
- Creative problem-solving and seeking improvements
- Experience of technical and vocational education
- Being collaborative and working as a team
- Curiosity, innovation and analytical approach

## 2. Remember: the ability to work with numbers is often an important skill for governors.

This might be for budgeting or analysing data on pupil performance. Don't underestimate how valuable your background in maths and physics will be – make sure you mention it!

## 3. Think about your own experience of education and its impact on you.

How did you get to where you are now? Who or what helped you find a rewarding career as an engineer? For example, as a governor you can help ensure staff are providing:

- Comprehensive careers guidance
- Inspiring, specialist STEM teaching
- A well thought-out curriculum that links learning to practical application
- Work experience opportunities that open pupils' eyes to a broader range of careers

## 4. Don't forget to do your research on the school itself.

There are lots of factors that can influence your role as a governor, so the context of the school is important. It is helpful to show an understanding of:

- The school's Ofsted rating
- Its size and local community
- What type of school it is e.g. local authority or academy
- What proportion of children receive Free School Meals
- Its mission or values statement

## 5. Explain why you want to become a governor and why you believe you can make a difference as an engineer.

What is your particular goal or interest? It could be:

- Improving STEM outcomes for pupils
- Helping pupils understand the real-world application of maths and physics e.g. in engineering careers
- Connecting the school with opportunities for pupils to learn more about careers in STEM

## 6. Don't worry about knowing all the educational jargon or acronyms.

What is most important is explaining how you can apply your experience and expertise to help set the strategic direction of the school and provide strong support and challenge.

As an engineer, that is what already makes you a stand-out candidate.



Thank you for joining the country's largest volunteer workforce and committing your time, energy and experience to making a real difference to the lives of young people.

As an engineer governor, you will be perfectly placed to raise the profile of STEM careers and help inspire the next generation of engineers, designers, technicians and coders.

***Good luck!***