

Managing the membership of the board

Governing board composition

How to use this document

This is intended to be an easy-to-use reference source summarising the numbers and categories of governor or trustee that a governing board should have.

1. All governing boards

Remember the recommendation is that governing boards should be no larger than necessary to carry out their role.

2. Trust boards

Subject to the following requirements academy trusts are free to decide the minimum and maximum size of the trust board and the categories of trustee.

1. **Trust board size** : the DfE current model memorandum and articles of association stipulate that an academy trust must have no less than three trustees and unless determined otherwise by ordinary resolution of the members, shall not be subject to a maximum.
2. **Parent members** : trusts should have reserved places for parents, carers or other individuals with parental responsibilities in their governance structure; trusts should hold elections to fill these places, as appropriate.
 - SATs should have at least two such places on the trust board.
 - MATs should have at least two such places on the trust board or at least two such places on each local academy committee where the trust has established them.

3. MAT local academy committees

The minimum and maximum size and composition of academy committees will be specified in the articles of association and/or scheme of delegation and any terms of reference. So, the composition of academy committees does vary from MAT to MAT and you can expect to find a variety of categories including for example community, staff, parent, co-opted.

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4. LA maintained schools

Board Size and board member category	Maintained school	Maintained school federation	Foundation school		Voluntary Controlled (VC) school	Voluntary Aided (VA) school
			Minority	Majority		
Total number	Minimum 7	Minimum 7	No minimum or maximum	Minimum 12	Minimum 7	Minimum 12
Parent governor	Minimum 2 (elected)	Must have 1 from each school		2	Minimum 2	
Senior executive leader	Yes	Yes, from each school		Yes	Yes	
Local Authority governor	1 (nominated by LA)	1 (nominated by LA)		1 (nominated by LA)	1 (nominated by LA)	
Co-opted governor	Minimum 2	No minimum or maximum		Must be at least 2 fewer than Foundation governors	No minimum or maximum	No limit but must be outnumbered by Foundation governors
Partnership governor	-	-	Minimum 2 (but no more than a ¼ of the board)		-	
Staff governor	Maximum 1 (elected)	1 (elected)		1 (elected)	Minimum 1 (elected)	
Foundation governor	-	-	Minimum 2 (but no more than 45% of the governing board)	7 for an overall majority of up to 2 places	Minimum 2 but no more than ¼ of the governing board	No minimum or maximum but must outnumber other governor categories