

# Clerking in new contexts: MAT local governance tier

## Key Differences in faith MATs for the governance professional

### How to use this document

As a governance professional, if you were to clerk at the local governance tier in a faith MAT, there are some differences you might encounter. This document includes a non-exhaustive summary of some main areas of difference to help you prepare for your new role.

### Appointment and resignation of foundation governors

It will vary from MAT to MAT how the foundation governors are appointed. In some the central team and Diocese might fully control this and just inform you of any new appointments and reappointments, in others it may be down to the academy committee to source potential foundation governors from the local faith community. You will also need to ensure that the appropriate faith body is notified of any foundation governor resignations. You will need to ensure that you know what the process is to be followed for appointments and resignations, who you need to liaise with and the expectations from you as the governance professional in terms of any required input and administration.

### Governor and trustee training

Faith MATs often have their own compulsory training programmes for foundation governors; and in some MATs they will expect all governors to undergo training around the faith ethos of the MAT. As governance professional your role could vary, this may all be organised centrally or it might be down to you to arrange and keep the records of this training. Again, you will need to find out what the expectations are for any faith MAT you clerk for.

### Scheme of delegation, terms of reference and the role of local governors

Expect to see specific references to the role of the local governance tier in ensuring the faith ethos of the MAT and school are upheld in these internal governance documents. This will also be a thread in governor monitoring visits and some MATs may require local a sub-committee to focus on the religious ethos of the school. You will need to check the situation in any faith MAT you clerk for.

### SIAMs Inspections (section 48 inspection)

If you have already clerked in a faith school you will be aware of SIAMs inspections, which vary depending on the nature of the faith school. In a faith MAT you will need to establish the expected role of the local governance tier and ensure that governors are aware of their responsibilities, supporting with planning the agendas, governor monitoring and organising SIAMs training as outlined in the internal governance documents.

So, as with all committees, the local governance tier works to the internal governance documents so if you were to clerk for a school in a faith MAT, you would need to carefully scrutinise these documents to make yourself familiar with a) the role of the academy committee b) specific functions in relation to the faith aspect of the MAT.