

School improvement – the role of school governance and how universities can address the shortage of skilled governors in state schools

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The University of Manchester and Governors for Schools



The role of governor



Strategy



Creating robust
accountability



Financial
management

Addressing the shortage of governors

- Thousands of school governor and trustee vacancies
- Governors for Schools works directly with schools, as well as with local authorities and academy trusts
- Staff and alumni have a diverse range of skills which can help schools in achieving their objectives

Recruiting governors

What does the university do?

- Signpost to GfS
- Promote the role of school governor and associated opportunities
- Co-ordinate an internal Governor network
- Staff governors receive 5 days additional annual leave

What does Governors for Schools do?

- Come onto campus
- Match skills and schools
- Provide feedback on impact of volunteers
- Provide reports to the university

The Governor Network

- Share good practice and have a platform for questions and support
- Professional development opportunity (external and internal providers)
- Increase recruitment and retention of governors

How does the University benefit?

- Staff gain new skills and higher level skills
- Skills come back into the workplace
- 98% of UoM staff governors surveyed have developed new skills
- Staff engagement
- Community engagement
- Improved relationships with local schools

School Improvement/Impact

- Ensuring a school is supported by the right people and skills
- Providing a strategic link to Higher Education
- Providing an operational link
- Targeting schools to improve outcomes in Ofsted Inspections

Driving Standards

- University of Manchester governors support approx. 450,000 pupils
- This is around 12,000 days volunteered
- Ongoing support to governors from Governors for Schools and the University of Manchester
- The University of Manchester is supporting other universities to do the same



**Great governors come from
your university**