

Have you ever thought about being an Academy Councillor?

We used to be called Governors and although there has been a change in name we still perform the same role.

We are looking for people to take up positions on the Academy Council and to help you understand what it is like, we have asked some questions of a current parent member who has answered some frequently asked questions to give you an understanding of what you could expect.

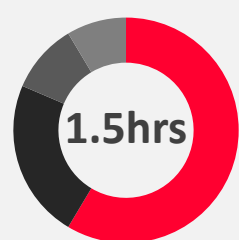


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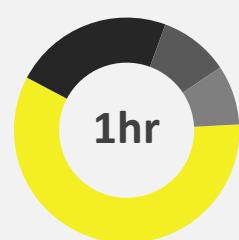
Why be an Academy Councillor?

Q. How much time do you give each month to being an Academy Council Member?

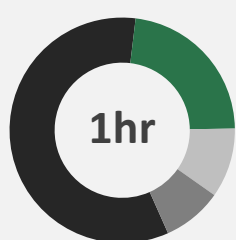
A. As with anything, this can vary each month, but the scheduled time is around an hour and a half for the meetings every other month. There is some training that is needed but these can be completed when works for you. Training is mostly online and vary in length. On top of this depending on your role you can be involved in meetings with staff or getting into the school to see the learning within the school. If you look at the meetings and training, you are talking of around 2-3 hours a month. If you want to be more involved, then this could be as much as you can offer.



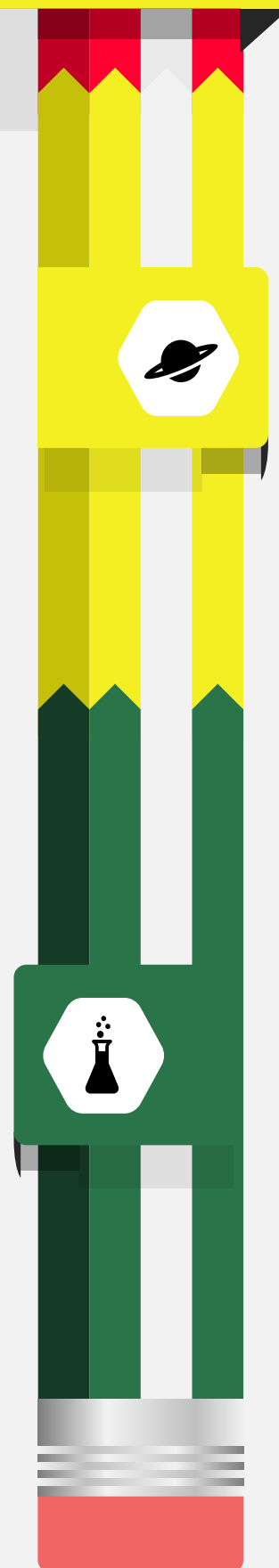
Meetings



Training

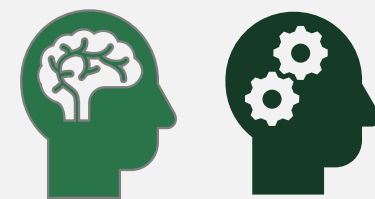


Other



Q. What skills do you need to be an effective member of the Academy Council?

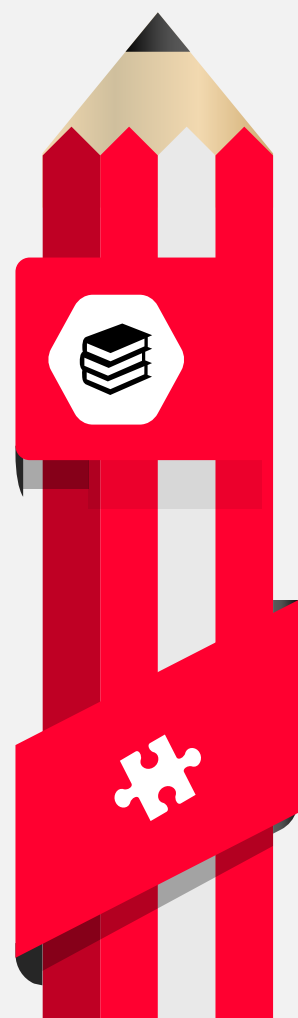
A. Listening is key within the first few months as there is a lot of information to take in and learn. Then you will start to find your place within the board and what you might be able to offer. We all have skills from work or our personal experiences that add value, so the board can always make use of these. We have Academy Councillors that have specific skills for the board, Health & Safety, Safeguarding and finance to name a few. We are always keen to speak to people who have expertise in other areas, so please do reach out. I started as a parent Governor and am now Vice-Chair, and responsible for Safeguarding and H&S. I bring experience from roles that I have held in strategy, business & project planning, governance, creative and others, but I feel the key skill I am bringing, is those I have as a parent. After all this is all about our children.





Q. Do you receive training to help in your role?

A. Yes you have access to lots of training online, to help with understanding the role of an Academy Councillor and what the schools are working towards. The meetings are also great training, you get to hear the Senior Leaders of the school update on key information. This gives you a great overview of what is happening. Also, the other members of the board are always helpful and share their experiences with you. The Trust offer training as well to help you through your role as an Academy Councillor.



Q. What do you enjoy most about being an Academy Council Member?

A. Being able to offer my perspective, although I am only one voice with my own views, I try to provide a considered approach within meetings and feeding into the staff. Our children spend such a vast amount of their week in School and with the teaching staff. To be able to offer the smallest of assistance to them in delivering the offering is worth the time. There is some much expertise in the staff team that external input from different industries and experiences provides a fantastic environment for shared learning and development for the schools and children.

Academy Council

Why be an Academy Councillor?

Q. What piece of advice would you give to someone thinking about becoming an Academy Councillor?

A. Give it a go!! I work full time as many of us do. My involvement in my children's school activity before being an Academy Councillor, was often asking 'what did you do today?' I am sure you are all used to the 'I don't remember' or 'not a lot' responses. Although I am not working directly on what they are doing; I am not a teacher, I feel I get a better understanding of the school and what they are working to achieve for them and the rest of the pupils. As an Academy Councillor, you are working with school and their values to achieve the best for the pupils and being able to help the leadership team in doing this is something that I really enjoy.

