



Half Termly Governance Newsletter

ALWAYS LEARNING TOGETHER

Discovering Our Purpose: Who We Are and What We Do

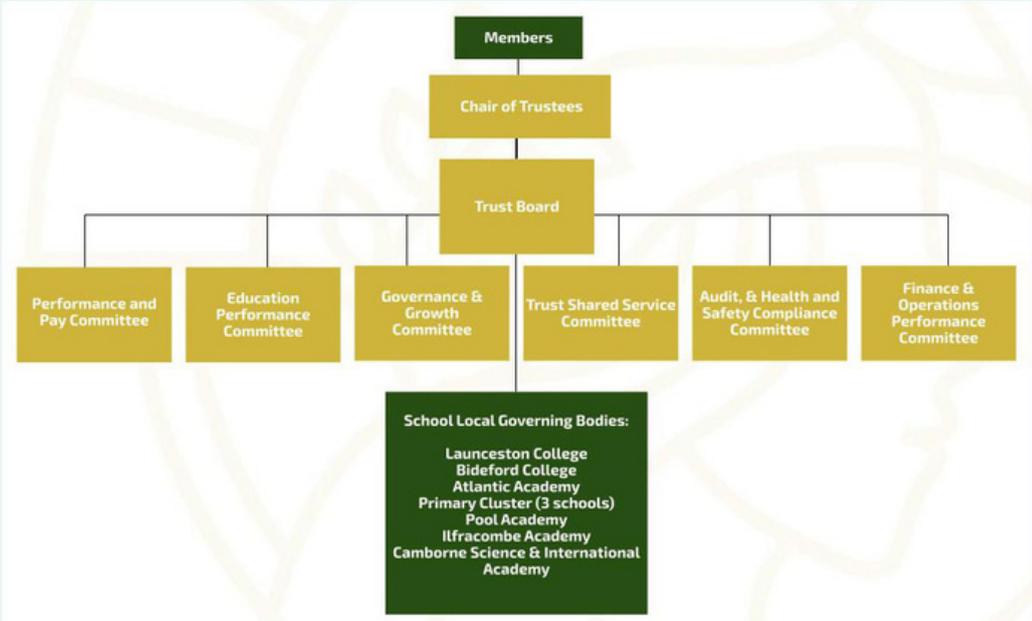
Welcome to Athena Learning Trust

Founded in 2022, we are a family of schools championing wisdom, knowledge, and learning. Named after Athena, we stand for a world where every child attends a great school. Together, we learn from the best thinkers, striving to be a leading trust for knowledge-building. We are dedicated to delivering world-class support that transforms the lives of our communities. We understand that children are the future, and our mission is to inspire and empower them to dream big, take responsibility, and be kind.



Governance Structure

Consists of: Members, Trustees, Local Governors



Welcome to the Team

We are delighted to welcome the below new governors to the team:

Ilfracombe Academy

Dan Law

Rachael Hughes

Bideford College

Kerry Gould

Launceston College

Sylvia Lennard



Half Term Overview

As we approach the end of the term, we've successfully completed a full cycle of committee meetings, spanning both Local Governing Bodies (LGBs) and Trustee committees, alongside our comprehensive Board meeting.

At the local level, we're delighted to welcome numerous new governors across our schools - encompassing parent and community governors at Launceston and Bideford, and staff governors at Pool. Every new Trustee and governor undergoes a thorough training induction, which not only emphasises safeguarding protocols but also provides comprehensive insights into their roles. This includes details about ad-hoc meetings such as complaints panels and pupil discipline reviews.

Our Trustees have been actively engaging with our schools this term, with notable visits from our Vice Chair of Trustees, Ashley Shopland. Ashley spent valuable time at Ilfracombe Academy and Pool Academy, immersing in the day-to-day operations, including shadowing the SENCo.

Upcoming:

Looking ahead, we have the next round of LGB meetings scheduled at each school in early May. Governors eagerly anticipate updates from heads of department and school improvement plan leads regarding progress made thus far in the academic year.

Hear from Our Governors

This half term we are hearing a piece from
**Jenna Branch, Primary Cluster Staff
Governor**



I have found representing staff as a school staff governor of Launceston Primary School a very rewarding opportunity and experience.

Being a governor supports my professional development and has given me a deeper perspective of primary education. I enjoy working alongside other professionals and teachers to improve outcomes for children.

I have had the opportunity to develop new skills as well as strengthen existing ones such as team work, problem solving, business awareness and decision making. Being part of a diverse group of people that all bring a wide range of skills and knowledge, is very productive. These skills are used to benefit our schools within the trust and the wider community.

Governing is a challenging but rewarding role that ensures the best outcomes are reached for our children - it really makes a difference. A sense of satisfaction through knowing children will benefit from our efforts is incredibly fulfilling.

**Are you a member of staff?
Want to get involved in shaping the future of
education?
Apply to be a Staff Governor today!**

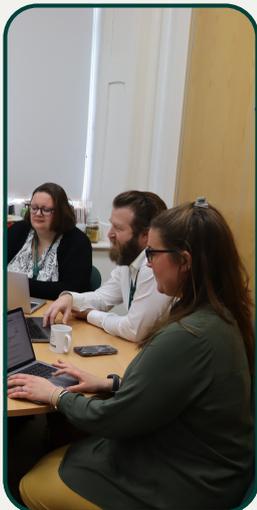
Why Get Involved in Staff Governance?

Are you passionate about contributing to positive change within our organisation? Becoming a part of the staff governance structure offers numerous benefits, including:

- 1. Influence:** As a staff representative, you have the opportunity to influence decision-making processes and policies that directly impact your work environment and colleagues.
- 2. Professional Development:** Serving in a governance role provides valuable experience in leadership, collaboration, and decision-making, enhancing your professional skills and profile.
- 3. Visibility:** Being involved in governance can increase your visibility within the organization, potentially opening doors to new opportunities and career advancement.

Staff Governor Role

School governors within the Athena Learning Trust play a vital role in ensuring effective governance and the provision of quality education to all students. Governed by a set of principles and responsibilities, they contribute diverse perspectives and uphold the values of the Trust. Here are the key roles and responsibilities of school governors summarised for clarity and efficiency.



- Governors serve in a non-executive capacity, providing strategic oversight.
- They bring diverse perspectives and act as 'eyes and ears' for the LGB.
- Governors uphold school values and ensure adherence to policies.
- They hold school leaders accountable for performance and finances.
- Governors abide by a Code of Conduct and governance procedures.
- They advocate for the school and its stakeholders.
- Governors work cooperatively with other stakeholders.
- They attend and actively contribute to governing body meetings.
- Governors engage with school staff and events, staying updated on education.
- They take on specific roles and serve on committees when required.
- Governors maintain and develop their skills and knowledge.
- They engage with other governing bodies and the Board of Trustees.

Like the sound of this? Contact our governance team today: governance@athenalearningtrust.uk

Opportunities Beyond Your School:

Additionally, involvement in staff governance doesn't have to be limited to your own school. You can extend your impact by applying to serve as a governor in other schools within the community or region. This broader engagement not only allows you to contribute to improving education on a wider scale but also provides networking opportunities and a chance to gain diverse perspectives and experiences. Whether within your own school or beyond, taking part in staff governance offers a platform to make meaningful contributions and shape the future of education.

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

As always, we encourage all governors to take advantage of the training and continuous professional development (CPD) opportunities available through Governor Hub.

It's an invaluable resource to enhance your skills and knowledge, ensuring you're well-equipped to fulfill your role effectively.

[Governor Hub](#)

Contact Us

We value your interest and encourage you to reach out with any enquiries or to seek further information. Please feel free to contact us using the provided details below:

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