Teach Computing

Becoming a school governor or trustee

A guide for **IT** and **computing professionals.**

Governors work with their school's leadership team to set the strategic direction, monitor the delivery of that strategy, and give support and challenge to the headteacher. Trustees play a similar role in schools that are part of multi-academy trusts.

Volunteering as a school governor or trustee is a great way to develop your career and to contribute to your community.

Inspiring the next generation of IT professionals

Many schools are facing a variety of challenges in delivering inspiring computing education.

As an IT professional, you are well placed to support the school in improving their offer and equipping this generation of young people for the jobs of the future.

Simon Peyton Jones, chair of the National Centre for Computing Education, and governor at Chesterton Community College.

"Computing professionals are particularly valuable as governors. Schools need our belief in our subject, our technical expertise and our address books. Every school is working out what computing as a school subject means, what a great education in computing looks like and how to offer pathways in computing that suit every child."

National Centre for Computing Education

How you can help

While all school governors and trustees share a general responsibility for supporting the leadership team and holding them to account, many individual governors and trustees take an interest in a specific area.

There are many ways that your experience as an IT professional can benefit the school.

The school's needs	How IT professionals can help as govenors and trustees
All schools should be teaching the computing national curriculum and offering their students opportunities to progress in their computing studies, but recruiting teachers with appropriate skills is often challenging.	Support the school to make the best use of the **National Centre for Computing Education** training, support and teaching resources.
Schools should be using IT to support their teaching, communications and management. Schools are beginning to get a lot more data savvy and the challenges of teaching during the pandemic have catapulted online learning into the spotlight.	Support the school in taking a systematic approach, and helping them get the support they need.
With young people, safeguarding is a real concern, and some schools have received cybersecurity threats.	Help schools to understand the risks and better manage them.

School governor

As governors we can offer perspective, ideas, contacts, backup in difficult moments and a dialogue that is both supportive and challenging.'

Eligibility

Anyone over the age of 18 can become a school governor or trustee: no specific knowledge or experience is required and there is no requirement to be a parent.

Enthusiasm and a desire to make a difference are the most important qualities a volunteer can have.

Time commitment

The average time commitment is 5–8 hours per month, although it will vary depending on the needs of the school and the role. This includes meetings, background reading and school visits. Most governing boards hold their meetings in the evenings.

School governors and trustees have a right to reasonable time off of work for their public duties, although this may be unpaid. Your company's HR department will be able to tell you about its policy.

Each school sets a term of office for its governors/trustees, normally two to four years, and many serve multiple terms. However, as a volunteer you can resign before your term is finished if your circumstances change.

School governor

"As a governor, you will get a close up look at the educational crucible, and the privilege of being able to influence it in some modest way. It's an honour to be even a small part of something as big as our children's future."

Find out more about being a governor or trustee: **www.nga.org.uk**

Find out more about supporting computing teaching in schools: **teachcomputing.org**

Find out more about supporting safe and effective use of IT: **www.bcs.org**

Any questions?

If you have any questions, please send them to **info@teachcomputing.org** and we will be in touch to help!

teachcomputing.org   **WeAreComputing**   **@WeAreComputing**

National Centre for Computing Education