High quality governance is crucial

- To children’s education and life chances
- To holding heads and schools to account
- To the future of schools
- To making the most of the time invested by dedicated volunteers

Yet Ofsted find that many schools have mediocre governance
We want all GBs to operate as non-executive boards focused on three core functions – as reflected in Ofsted’s inspection criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Function</th>
<th>Ofsted criteria for effective governance</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Setting strategic direction</td>
<td>- clarity of vision and ethos&lt;br&gt;- engaging stakeholders&lt;br&gt;- meeting statutory duties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creating robust accountability</td>
<td>- Using data to provide challenge and hold leaders to account for teaching, achievement, behaviour and safety&lt;br&gt;- strengthening school leadership, including skills of GB&lt;br&gt;- performance managing the headteacher&lt;br&gt;- contributing to school self-evaluation and evaluating GB’s impact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ensuring best use of financial resources</td>
<td>- solvency and effective financial management&lt;br&gt;- use of Pupil Premium and other resources to overcome barriers to learning</td>
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</table>
A range of policy objectives underpin this vision of more ‘professionalised’ school governance

1. **Inform**: Improve information, data and guidance for governors

2. **Re-model**: Create greater freedom for more effective models of governance

3. **Recruit**: Attract more higher-quality governors with the skills GBs need

4. **Build capacity**: Improve training and support to increase GBs’ effectiveness

5. **Sharpen accountability**: Inspect and intervene to judge and improve performance
We want governors to be informed about the nature of their role and responsibilities, and about their schools

**Clear policy framework**
- Roles, Procedures and Allowances regs and Departmental Advice
- Draft revised statutory guidance on 2012 Constitution regulations

**Good school performance data**
- Ofsted dashboard, and new shorter RAISE online Summary report
- New data warehouse and portal from 2015 for all DfE data
We are creating a more flexible legal framework to enable but not mandate better models of governance

Aim 2: Re-model

We want GB constitution to focus more on skills

- Consultation on changes to 2012 Constitution regulations
- Considerable freedom for academies – transition to academy status key opportunity to review GB structure and membership

At school level

We want to enable more effective governance structures

- Federation and Collaboration regulations for maintained schools
- Flexibility of MAT and UT structures for academies
- New NCTL guidance on governance in MATs and Federations

Across groups of schools
We want to attract more high quality governors

**SGOSS**
- Funding committed to 2015 to enable growth in free service to schools, academies and LAs

**Employers**
- Working with partners to plan campaign to engage more employers to support staff to volunteer as governors

**Recognition**
- Always looking for high quality honours nominations
We are increasing our support to GBs

- **NLGs**
  - 300 National Leaders of Governance by March 2014

- **National College Training and Development**
  - Chairs leadership development programme – 2,300 by 2014
  - New training programme for clerks – 2,000 by 2015
  - Training workshops for governors – on Teachers’ PRP, RAISEonline, and financial efficiency available in 2014

- **GovernorLine**
  - New contract in place by March 2014
We are working with Ofsted to make sure under-performance is identified and addressed

**Inspection**
- Explicit focus on governance in every inspection report
- External reviews in all ‘RI’ schools, with robust monitoring of impact
- NCTL guidance on external reviews being updated

**Intervention**
- Warning notices and IEBs
- Termination of academy funding agreements
- Help for failing schools to find high quality academy sponsor
Look out for…

- Department Advice on Roles, Procedures and Allowances regulations
- Consultation on Constitution regulations
- Campaign to engage more employers
- New NLGs designated in your area
- New NCTL workshops and updated guidance on external reviews
For more information please visit
www.education.gov.uk/governance

Questions or comments can be sent to
school.governance@education.gsi.gov.uk