

Outstanding Governance Awards 2025



Outstanding governance in a multi academy trust: information sheet

About the award

This award is to recognise a multi academy trust that has demonstrated effective governance and outstanding strategic leadership to create positive outcomes across their trust.

Who can be nominated in this category?

Multi academy trusts with two or more schools in England.

Academy committees/LGBs within a multi academy trust are not eligible to apply on their own but can nominate the trust. Single academy trusts are not eligible for this award and should apply for our outstanding governance in a single school award.

Who can make the nomination?

Trust boards can self-nominate in this category.

Other individuals or organisations may nominate a trust providing they have a detailed enough knowledge of the trust's governance practices and achievements to complete the form. These include:

- Members of the trust
- Local governors
- CEO and other trust employees
- Community stakeholders
- Regional Director
- Governance consultant
- Diocese/Sponsor etc.
- Anyone who has previously been in the above categories.

Anyone can make a nomination but must have the backing of the trust board and particularly the chair and leadership team.

How to apply

Complete the [nomination form](#) and return this document via email to awards@nga.org.uk by 12pm Monday 14 April 2025.



What are the criteria?

The nominated trust must meet good governance practices, and we will look for demonstration of this within the nomination, supporting evidence and checks undertaken as part of the awards process. They must be able to demonstrate:

- Effectiveness in meeting its 'board purpose' as defined in the Academy Trust Handbook
- Good outcomes for pupils
- Sustainable finances
- Meaningful stakeholder engagement
- Effectiveness in ensuring compliance with statutory requirements
- Success in strategic planning and overseeing a healthy culture and positive change
- Effective local governance arrangements
- Evidence of a clear vision and strategy

What makes a successful nomination?

- Evidence of the trust board carrying out their core functions effectively (e.g. strategic role without straying into operational issues, challenge of senior leaders, financial oversight etc.)
- Demonstration of a vision and strategy
- Successfully demonstrating effective stakeholder engagement, including with those governing at the local level
- Examples of the board's role in promoting and supporting positive change
- Adherence to NGA recommendations on delegation and board composition
- Evidence of the board reviewing its own composition and practices and identifying areas for improvement
- Evidence of how the MAT has utilized the local tier
- Evidence of a continued journey of improvement – the judges are not looking for perfection but a commitment to improvement.

The nomination process

To nominate a trust for this award you will need to complete the nomination form below and return this document via email. You will be asked to answer four questions about the work of the trust board you are nominating.

You will also need to provide the following supporting information:

- Core governance documents (articles of association, scheme of delegation, terms of reference for one school's local governing body (LGB), and the most recent trust board meeting agenda and minutes

If your application is shortlisted, key individuals at your trust, such as the chair of trustees, CEO and governance professional, will be invited to an interview with the judges, at which all aspects of governance within the trust will be discussed. We may also request further supporting evidence, such as strategy documents and key priorities, as well as board minutes and papers.