



Barton Court Academy Trust is looking to recruit Governors for the Local Governing Body of its schools

If you feel this is a role you could contribute to, then please read on:

Background

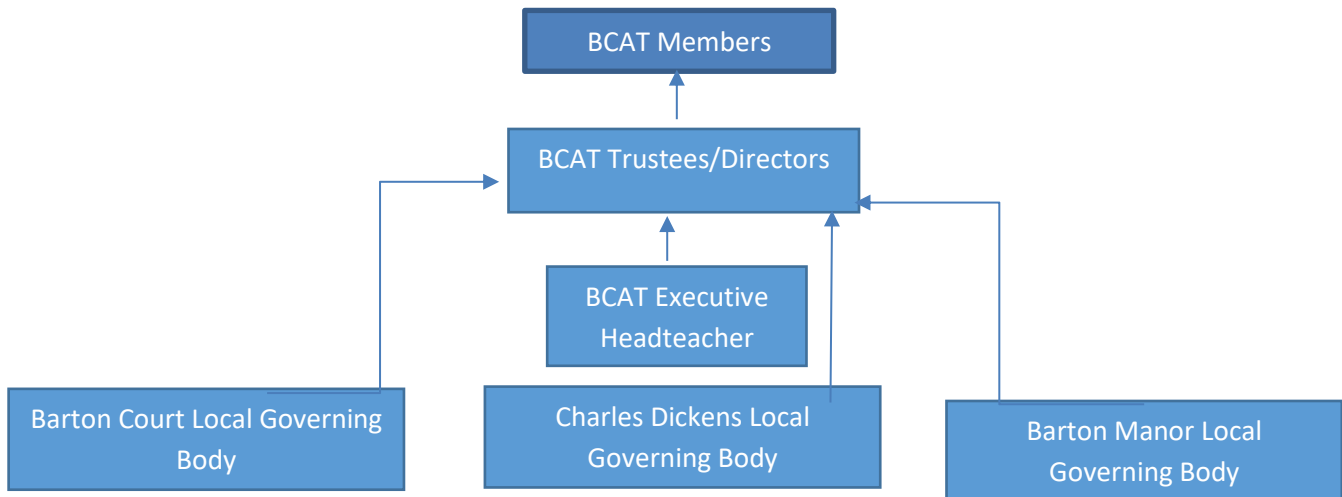
Barton Court Academy Trust (BCAT) is a multi-academy Trust which was established in 2017.

It currently consists of two secondary schools: Barton Court Grammar School, an 11-18yrs, mixed selective school in the heart of Canterbury, rated “Good” with many outstanding features by Ofsted in February 2020, and The Charles Dickens School, an 11-16yrs mixed non-selective school in Broadstairs, which came out of special measures in June 2019 and is a rapidly improving school.

The Trust is also opening Barton Manor Free School, an 11 – 18yrs non-selective mixed school in the heart of Canterbury on the former Chaucer School site in September 2022 to Year 7.

The diagram below shows the governance relationships within the Trust:

The Director/Governance Structure of Barton Court Academy Trust (BCAT)



What does an LGB do?

Each School in the Trust has its own Local Governing Body. The LGB plays an essential role in the overall governance of each School and its role is to understand, advise, challenge, support and encourage the School to be outstanding.

As a ‘critical friend’ the LGB offers support, constructive advice and acts as a sounding board for ideas; but it is also expected to challenge, ask questions, seek information and to check on the progress of students and leaders’ actions. It is expected to hold the Headteacher and senior leaders to account for the performance of the school and to report to the Board of Directors/Trustees

In summary, the responsibilities of the LGB fall into three key areas:

Strategic direction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monitor and evaluate the impact of the School Development Plan• Liaise with the Trust Board on all aspects of policy setting• Arranging the election of members, as directed by the Trust Board
Monitoring and support	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensuring high standards of achievement for all students• Ask challenging, relevant and probing questions in a supportive, honest and trusting manner• Review budget annual spend
Accountability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hold the Headteacher/Head of School and staff to account for the performance of the School• Effectiveness of Safeguarding• High quality provision for SEND• Equality• Student Welfare• Account to the BCAT Trust Board and to parents for the work of the LGB

Expectations of a Governor

The role of Governor is a voluntary one, requiring a high degree of commitment and confidentiality.

It is expected that Governors will be able to participate fully in the work of the LGB and the life of the School. It is envisaged that Governors would need to set aside an average of 5 hours a month in order to fulfil the following expectations:

- Attending 3 LGB meetings and 3 Sub-Committee meetings per year. Each meeting lasts for about 2 hours and takes place on a weekday evening, typically from 5pm-7pm. There will be a number of documents to review prior to the meetings.
- Undertaking 2-3 monitoring visits per academic year – these take place during the school day and provide an opportunity to develop the Link Governor role: this involves building a relationship with the lead member of staff for the area you are linked with and monitoring procedures and performance relating to it. A written report is required following each visit and help is available for new governors so that the level of information recorded is clear.
- Attending briefings/training events run by KCC – these take place approximately 3 times a year.
- Governor professional development which includes, but not exclusive to, annual online Governor training to include Safeguarding, Prevent and GDPR and a governor training event 1 x ½ day in the year
- Attending various school events across the year.

What are the benefits of becoming a Governor?

As well as knowing that you are contributing something very worthwhile within your local community, other benefits include:

- Professional development through a range of training courses;
- Gaining an insight into how schools operate;
- Acquiring skills that can be taken back to the workplace or used on your CV to broaden future job prospects;
- Building relationships through a network of professional local people.

Appointment and Term of Office

Governors are appointed for a period of 4 years by the BCAT Trustees. New Governors will be required to declare that they meet certain eligibility criteria including restrictions relating to bankruptcy and convictions for an offence.

On appointment and annually, Governors are required to:

- Sign a Declaration of Interests to record all business and relevant interests, financial or otherwise, which they and their spouse or partner, children, parents and any other close relatives may have;
- Undertake online training in Safeguarding, Prevent and any other course that may be required;
- Complete an enhanced DBS check (as this position will give access to children) and names will be checked against the list of people banned or with restrictions imposed on them from working in Schools with children and young people.

What to do next.....

If you feel that the role of Governor is one that you could contribute to, then please provide a CV and brief personal statement about your skills and reasons for applying. This should be emailed to clerk@bartoncourt.org for the attention of the Chair of the Trust.

If you would like to know more about the role or would like to speak to someone who is already serving as a Governor, then please contact the Clerk (clerk@bartoncourt.org) who will be pleased to help you.