



The 2024 Governance Guides

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[A Governor's Guide to Digital Monitoring](#)



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Aims of this session:



to explore the new Department for Education Governance Guides;



to clarify the variations and expectations between the Academy Trust and maintained school versions;

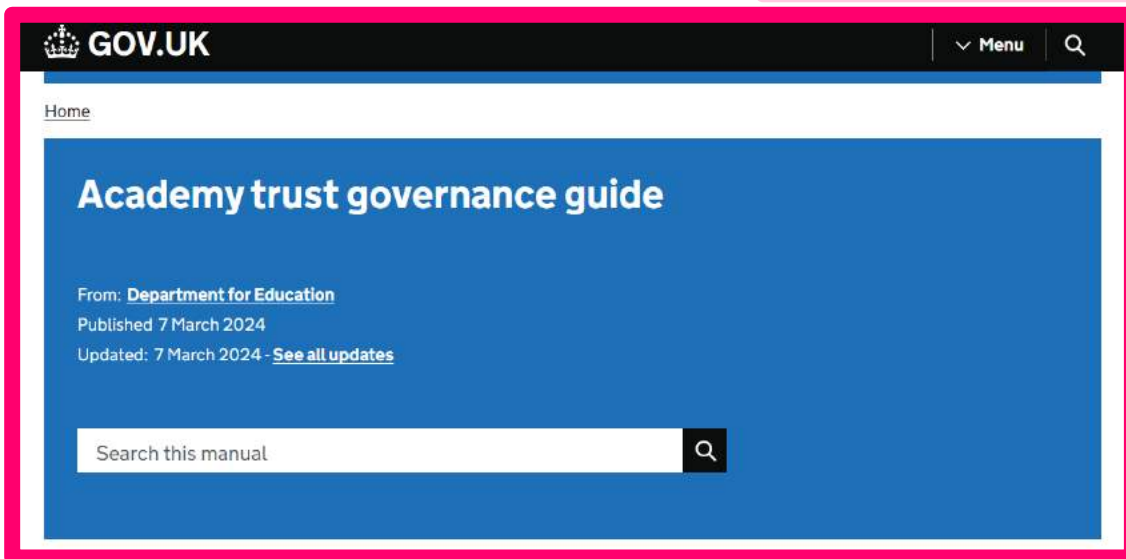
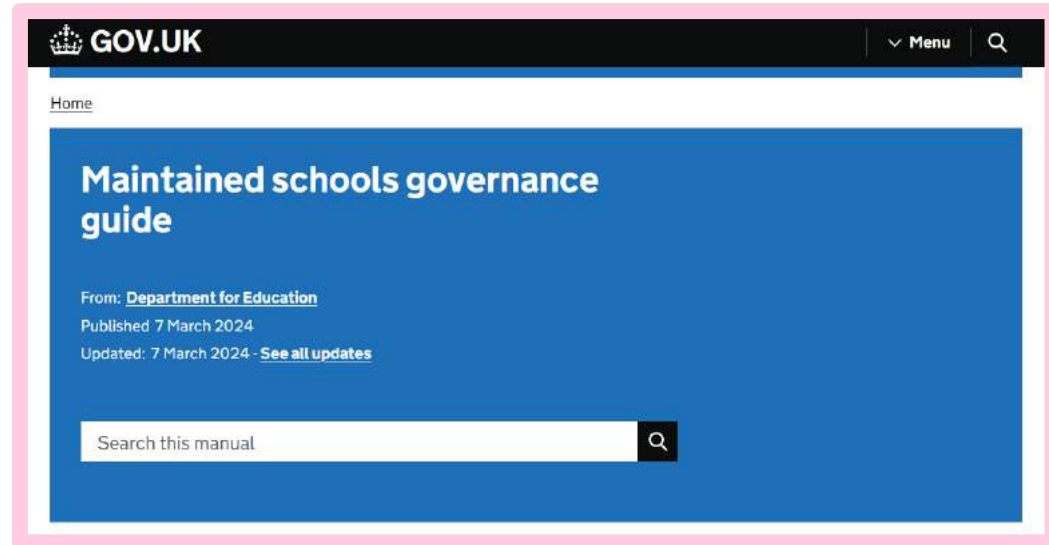


to focus on how governors and trustees should engage in these new guides.

Out with the old.....

- Governance Handbook withdrawn;
- Governance Competency Framework withdrawn;
- Clerking Competency Framework withdrawn;
- DfE Statutory policy list withdrawn.

...in with the new



Governance Guides – the big differences:

Maintained

- sections as per handbook;
- statutory policy list as annexe (caution);
- Core Functions retained (*word changes*)

Academy Trusts

- no core functions;
- focus on Trust Quality Descriptors;
- language slightly different

What hasn't changed:

Maintained

No changes to the School Governance (Roles, Procedures and Allowances)(England) Regulations 2013 or the School Governance (Constitution)(England) Regulations 2012.

Academy Trusts

No changes to the Academies Trust Handbook.

What has not changed - maintained:

- confirmation that board **MUST** listen to the advice of the clerk;
- the clerk to receive an appraisal conducted by the chair;
- linked visits should align with SIP and compliance expectations;
- governors **do not** need a right to work check;
- new section on Chairs Action;
- Clarity that committees and panels can include individuals from another school.

What's new – academy trusts?

- ‘governance professional’ instead of ‘clerk’;
- core functions replaced with AHT definition – *strategic leadership, accountability and assurance, and strategic engagement*;
- need to consult Articles of Association and or Funding Agreement for finer details;
- governance at local level now identified as **local committees** (*need to consult Scheme of Delegation for detail*).

Common changes – both guides

- innumerable links to other organisations and resources;
- Expectation that cyber training accessed by one governor/trustee (*link to Academy Trust Handbook*)
- Statutory Policy List info is questionable;
 - List in maintained guide (annexe)
 - Link (broken) in Academy Trust Guide

Cyber security training:

- *Governing Bodies need to understand the considerable damage that cyber-security attacks on schools can cause;*
- at least one governor *should* complete cyber-security training;
- RPA membership requires trusts/schools to meet four cyber conditions;

Cyber security in schools:



Cyber Security for Schools

Practical resources to help schools improve their cyber security.



Cyber security training for school staff

The NCSC has produced a training package for school staff to help improve cyber security.



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Impact on governance of new guides:

- distinct differences between the two guides, however, **the role of governance has not changed;**
- regulations apply to maintained schools, meaning there is a lot more detail in that guide;
- Local Committee function in MATs will be directed by the Scheme of Delegation.

How governance should use the guides:

- as key resource on expectations of governance in both sectors (*but not only source*);
- as part of new governor/trustee induction;
- as a springboard to deeper knowledge of governance (for clerks/governance professional too);
- with caution in some areas (e.g policies).

An element of effective governance:

- The guides must be used in conjunction with other guidance including:
 - regulations;
 - Academy Trust Handbook;
 - Funding Agreement
 - Keeping Children Safe in Education;
 - DfE Attendance Guidance;
 - Ofsted guidance/information;
 - Risk Protection Arrangement;
 - and more.

Any Questions?



Further information:

- Governance Guides

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/-governance-in-academy-trusts>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/governance-in-maintained-schools>

- Guides PDF versions

[Askaclerk.co.uk/dfegovernanceguides/](https://askaclerk.co.uk/dfegovernanceguides/)

Thank you