

Schools across England in new drive to apply business management disciplines

Submitted by: SGOSS - Governors for Schools

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Schools across England in new drive to apply business management disciplines.

Over two thirds of schools* now recruiting business professionals to board of governors.

Education charity SGOSS – Governors for Schools announces today the launch of a new drive in England to dramatically increase the level of business experience on school boards.

Reflecting changes in government policy which increase the pressure on schools to have an effective governing body, 67% of schools registered with SGOSS in 2014 are looking to recruit new governors with business-related skills, a figure which is increasing year-on-year. Requests for governors with skills such as HR, marketing, and premises management are all increasing, a change also highlighted in a recent study between the University of Bath and the National Governors' Association, which found that 89% of governors believe new governors should have a specialist knowledge such as financial or legal expertise.

Governing bodies provide vital support to schools and colleges and oversee an annual expenditure in excess of £46billion . Raising the level of business experience on school boards is increasingly seen as a route to help drive up school standards as evidenced in the work of the Inspiring Governors Alliance. New Ofsted inspection guidelines mean the effectiveness of a governing body is under increased scrutiny and the Department for Education has openly expressed its view that school governors 'should be more business-like'.

The SGOSS Make Schools Your Business campaign aims to encourage more skilled professionals to volunteer as school governors. The charity will be working with hundreds of companies across the country to raise awareness of the value skilled volunteers can bring to school governing bodies. The campaign is supported by a number of national and international corporations including BT, BP Plc, PwC and Deutsche Bank UK in an open letter which calls on businesses in England to support local education.

Interested volunteers and supporting businesses should visit www.becomeagovernor.com to find out more.

"Children deserve the best possible education and governors have a fundamental role in determining the success of their school. We are finding that schools are increasingly looking to appoint skilled business professionals to their governing body because they bring valuable expertise to the role. This is why today we are asking skilled professionals across the country to Make Schools Your Business." Clifford Burroughs, Chair of the Board, SGOSS – Governors for Schools.

"Volunteering as a governor is one of the most valuable contributions that we can make to improving standards in schools, and I encourage more people to do this. Many of the skills needed on a governing body are linked to, and developed in, a business environment, so individuals from business can have a lot to offer. This benefits not only the school and its pupils, but also the businesses who support their

employees to volunteer, as governors develop strategic board level skills that can then be applied to their job – positively impacting an individual’s performance and levels of engagement.”

Neil Carberry, Director, Employment & Skills, CBI

“Schools benefit greatly from the varied skills that governors from different walks of life can bring. We want to see more businesses supporting staff to volunteer as governors, and promoting governance as an important development opportunity to their staff - because the skills you develop as governors pay dividends in the workplace too.” The Rt Hon Nicky Morgan, Secretary of State for Education and Minister for Women and Equalities

“Excellent schools require excellent, committed governors and what we find attracts new governors now is the knowledge that we are looking to match their skills with the needs of the school, their expertise with the aspirations of our students, and their professionalism with the ambition of the staff. Many schools do still struggle to appoint suitable governors but we find that we are able to attract people who wouldn’t necessarily have become governors under the old ‘stakeholder’ model.” Sir Daniel Moynihan, Chief Executive, Harris Federation

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

SGOSS – Governors for Schools is a national education charity which provides a completely free school governor recruitment service to schools and colleges across England. Founded in 1999, the charity has helped to place over 18,000 school governors. More information: www.sgo.org.uk (<https://www.sgo.org.uk>).

A new animation accompanies the campaign: <http://youtu.be/GH8u5eOFjIE> (<http://youtu.be/GH8u5eOFjIE>).

The campaign Hashtag is #becomeagovernor. Follow the conversation at @schoolgovnet (<https://www.twitter.com/schoolgovnet>).

By September 2015 all LA Maintained Schools (over 17,000) need to abide by new regulations which state “a key consideration in the appointment and election of all new governors should be the skills and experience the governing body needs to be effective.” See here (https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/311411/Constitution_of_Governing_Bodies_of

There are over 4000 Academies in England. In both Academies and Free Schools, the governors are often the trustees of the school itself. The increased responsibilities of being a charity trustee make the importance of having the right volunteers for the role possibly even more pertinent.

SGOSS is a member of the Inspiring Governors Alliance. For more information visit www.inspiringgovernors.org/.

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