



Multi Academy Trust

Opportunity • Achievement • Kindness

Local Governor induction

Purpose

To enable governors to fulfil their roles by providing and understanding of:

- the purpose of governance
- the structure of governance in MATs
- the role and responsibility of local governance in Leading Edge
- Scheme of delegation
- Terms of reference
- Code of conduct
- how governors can know their schools
- community engagement
- communication across the Trust



Why is Governance Important?

Schools governors work to plan the strategic direction of the school, oversee stakeholder engagement, and support and challenge the headteacher. As part of the governing board, governors play a vital role in helping schools run efficiently and effectively to give children the best education possible.

Schools with strong governing boards are better equipped to make important decisions that affect the education they provide for their pupils.





A view from the DfE 2022 White paper 'Opportunity for All'

- It is only through a collaborative system in which everyone involved in education plays their part that we will achieve our literacy and numeracy mission.
- We want to spread the benefits of the best multi academy trusts, so that every child learns with the benefits of a strong, supportive family of schools.
- To ensure that is the case, we must create a system with clear roles and accountability.



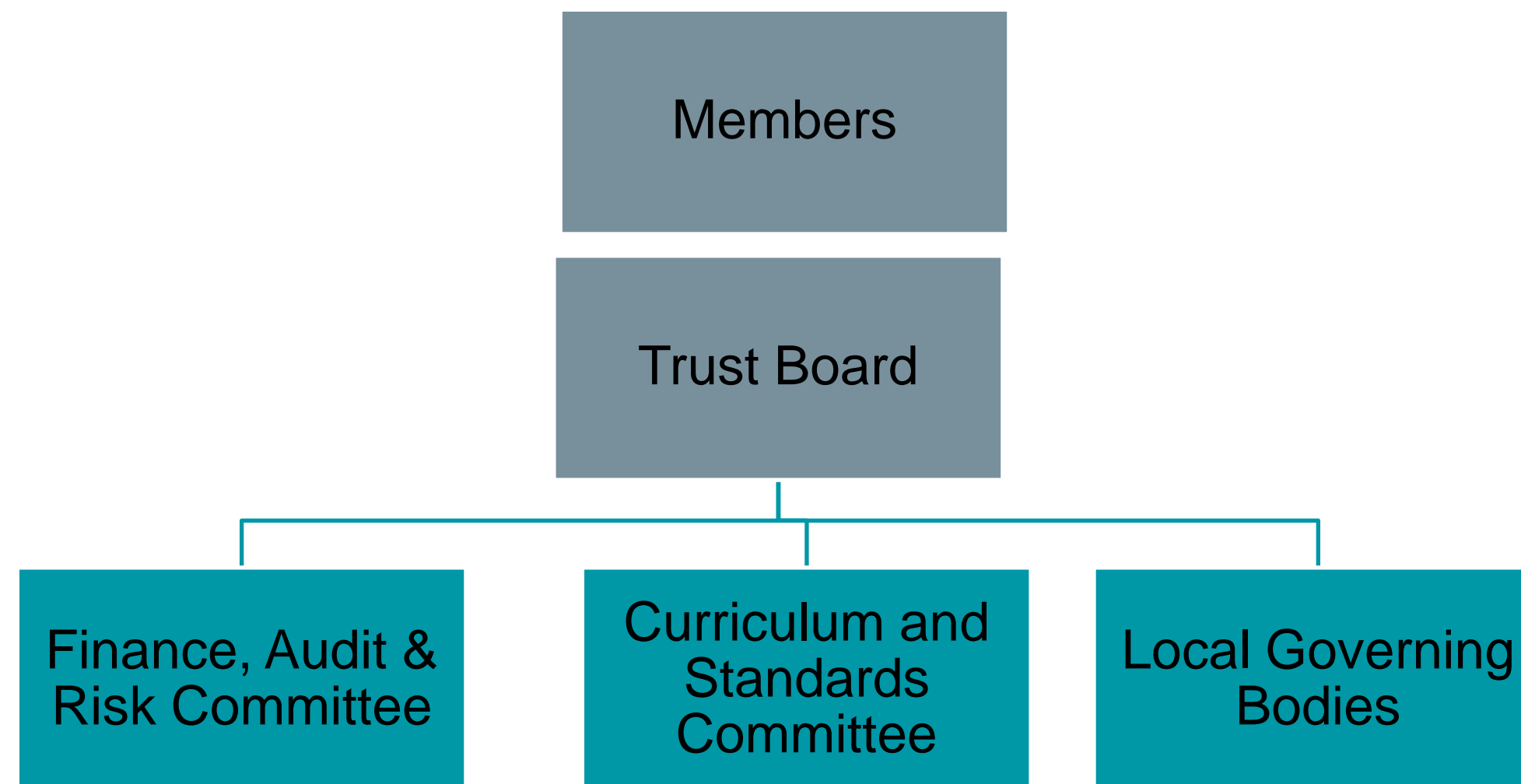
Governance in the Trust

The Academy Trust Board provides:

- **Strategic leadership:**
 - defines the trust vision for high quality and inclusive education
 - establishes and fosters the trust's culture and
 - sets and champions the trust strategy including
 - determines delegation of governance functions to the local tier
- **Accountability and assurance:**
 - of the operations and performance of the Academy Trust
- **Engagement:**
 - strategic oversight of relationships with stakeholders, so that decision-making is supported by meaningful engagement.



Governance in the Trust





The members: their role

- The members have ultimate control over the academy trust
- Members are guardians of the trust's charitable objects and must ensure that it fulfils its purpose
- Members approve the **articles of association** and any changes
- Members have an eyes on/hands-off role in terms of the governance and management of the academy trust
- Members must meet SEPARATELY once a year to receive the audited accounts and ensure charitable object are being met
- Members appoint (and can remove) some of the trustees



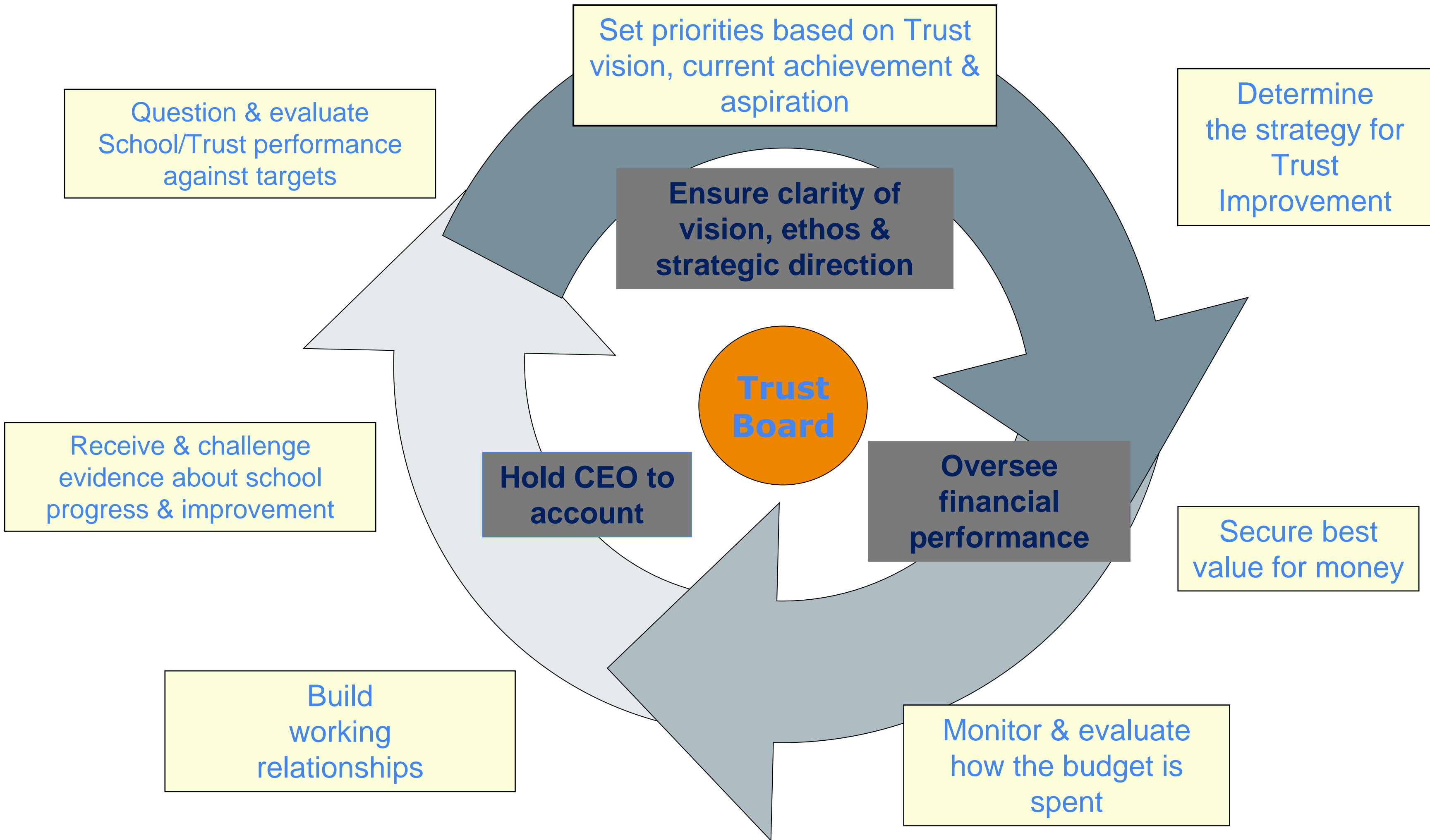
The trustees (company directors) – the role

The trust board is the accountable body

Trustees are responsible for the **three core governance functions**

Trustees must comply with charity law requirements and the companies act 2006

Trustees hold the senior leader to account.



Set priorities based on Trust vision, current achievement & aspiration

Determine the strategy for Trust Improvement

Ensure clarity of vision, ethos & strategic direction

Trust Board

Oversee financial performance

Secure best value for money

Hold CEO to account

Monitor & evaluate how the budget is spent

Build working relationships

Receive & challenge evidence about school progress & improvement

Question & evaluate School/Trust performance against targets



The role of the local governing body

- **Monitoring** the effectiveness of school policies, the ethos of the school and the behaviour of the pupils.
- **Scrutinising** performance data at a local level, ensuring that all groups of students are making good progress and attainment.
- **Evaluating** the implementation of the school improvement plans and seeking evidence of impact
- **Communicating** with the key stakeholders, including Trustees, staff, pupils and parents to ensure that the local voice is heard by the Trust Board.
- **Challenging and supporting** the Trust Board to ensure that the Leading Edge Academies Partnership achieves its vision and abides by its values.



The role of the LGBs – defined in:

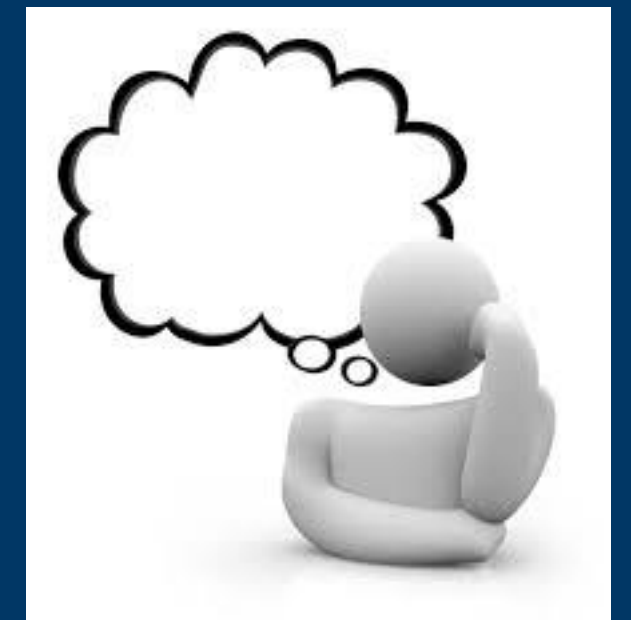
The
Scheme of
Delegation

The Terms
of
Reference

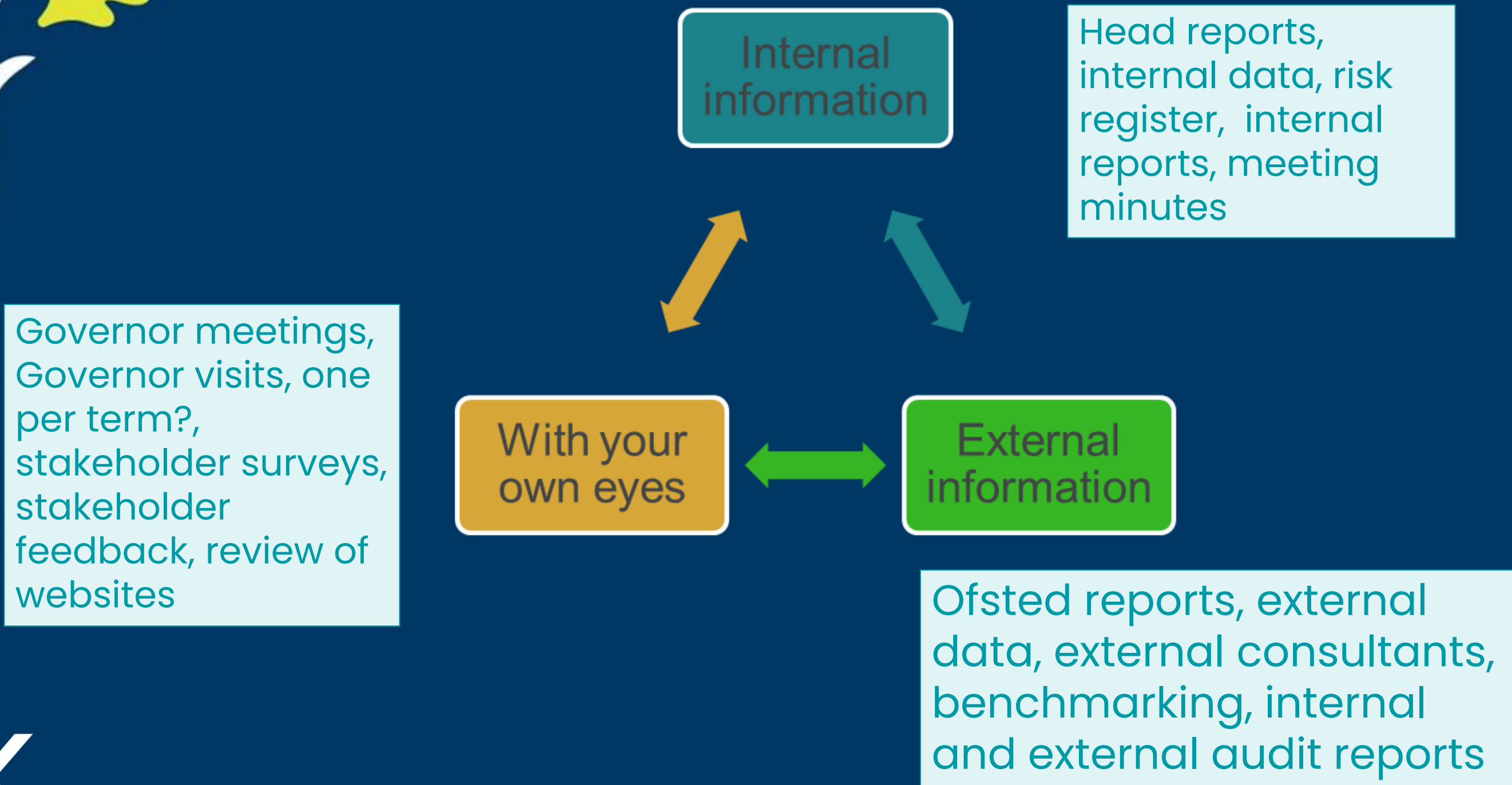
The Code of
Conduct

The Terms of Reference— Consider your role

- Expectation of the role
- Support offered
- Consider the general terms
- What 'type' of governor are you? – who elected you?
- How will meetings be organised?
- Your individual role



Knowledge of your school





The golden rules of governor visits

- They are for a pre-determined purpose
 - Monitoring compliance
 - Monitoring the school development plan
 - Getting to know the school and stakeholders
- Pre-arranged with the head
- Focused on challenge, support, actions, evidence and impact
- Build positive relationships
- Result in a SMART report
- Complete Governor Visit form



The 8 elements of effective governance

1. Right people round the table
2. Understanding role and responsibilities
3. Good chairing
4. Professional clerking
5. Good relationships based on trust
6. Knowing the school: the staff, the parents, the children, the community
7. Committed to asking challenging questions
8. Confident to have courageous conversations in the interests of the children and young people



The Code of Conduct

1. **Selflessness** – Act solely in the interest of children and young people.
2. **Integrity** – Avoid placing yourself under any obligation that might try to inappropriately influence.
3. **Objectivity** – Act and take decisions impartially and fairly, using best evidence and without discrimination.
4. **Accountability** – Be accountable to the public for decisions and actions and submit to scrutiny to ensure this.
5. **Transparency** – Expect to act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner.
6. **Honesty** – Be truthful and kind.
7. **Leadership** – Exhibit these principles at all times.





The Code of Conduct- what can possibly go wrong?

Overly operational

Lack of trust

Lack of challenge

Lack of commitment

Lack of people

Community Engagement

The stakeholder groups include parents, pupils, staff and community

- How do you hear their voice and gather their views?
- How do you know their needs?
- How can they hear about your schools and the Trust?
- How are you visible?





Communication across the Trust

- Chairs meetings once a term
- Minutes from LGB
- Reports to and from board
- Engagement
- Strategic whole trust events
- Weekly newsletter from trust governance lead

Training

Options include:

- Governor Hub / including Governor Hub Knowledge
[GovernorHub Knowledge \(thekeysupport.com\)](https://thekeysupport.com)
- Leicestershire Governor Development Service – all schools are members
[Leicestershire Traded Services](#)
- NGA / Learning Link
[Learning Link e-learning for school governors and trustees | National Governance Association \(nga.org.uk\)](#)
- Governors for schools – includes webinars, e-learning and news. Free.
[Online training and support for governors – Governors for Schools](#)