

# Governors Disciplinary Committee 'GDC'

## The Role of a Panel Member



TRANSFORMING LIFE CHANCES

# What is a GDC?

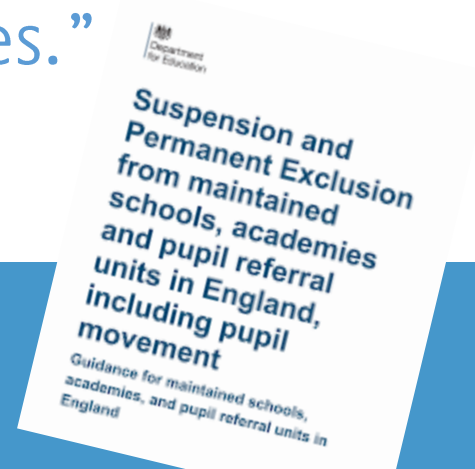
A 'GDC' is made up of a group of school governors who meet to review decisions made by the Headteacher about suspending or permanently excluding a pupil.

The purpose is to ensure that such decisions are fair, justified, and in line with school policies and legal requirements. The GDC reviews evidence, discusses the case, and decides whether to uphold or overturn the decision.

# Why do we run GDC's

- The Governing Boards duty to consider an exclusion/suspension is outlined in the [DFE Suspensions and Exclusions guidance](#), part SEVEN. *Ref pages 35 – 38.*

“Governing boards have a key responsibility in considering whether excluded pupils should be reinstated. This forms part of their wider role to hold executive leaders to account for the lawful use of exclusion, in line with the duties set out in law, including equalities duties.”



# What is my role as a Governor?

- To read the 'pack' of information provided by the school on the suspension/permanent exclusion prior to the meeting.
- To attend the meeting in person or virtually and work with fellow members and clerk to complete the agenda. This will include opportunities for you to ask questions of anyone in attendance to gain assurance that the suspension/permanent exclusion is lawful, reasonable and procedurally fair.
- Working with fellow panel members, to deliberate all evidence heard from all parties and make a decision whether to 'uphold' or 'overturn' the suspension/permanent exclusion.

# Governor Testimonials

“One of the key roles of a Governor is to both support and challenge the headteacher to provide the best education for children. Being part of a GDC allows me to fulfil that role for the most vulnerable children and young people in our schools.”

“I find GDC's really useful in enabling me to understand how my school implements its behaviour and intervention policies in practice. Sitting on panels for other TSAT schools as well provides further insight and opportunities to benchmark.”

“GDC's give me a deeper understanding of the education system and an insight into what teachers and head face on a regular basis. The knowledge we gain from GDCs allows us as governors to add positive benefit at AGB's with strategic questioning.”

“Governance can sometimes feel detached from the day-to-day of school work and pupils' lives. GDCs helped me appreciate the enormous importance of the policies and strategies we approve in AGBs, by considering how they've been applied in the case of specific pupils.”



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# How can I become involved in GDCs?

There is a short and simple way to get ready for your first GDC!

1. Watch this [20 minute video - Governor Disciplinary Committee Training - Lee Lucas - July 2023](#)
2. Contact your School Clerk and [governance@tsatrust.org.uk](mailto:governance@tsatrust.org.uk) to confirm that you have watched this.
  - *The slides that are used in this video are available [here](#).*

*Optional extra:*

3. *Contact our team to observe a GDC prior to your first one.*

# Additional Opportunities to Learn!

If you are interested – more opportunities to deepen your knowledge are available:

[GDC training is available on Governor Hub.](#) This is a more in-depth 2 hour training course that offers downloadable documents to support and is an interesting, interactive course.



The DfE's Suspension and Exclusion Guidance can be found [here](#).

Q- Will I need to attend the school?

A- Most GDC's take place in person, however, we do have the facility to run meetings hybrid on teams

Q- How long does a GDC last?

A- Approx. 1 to 1.5 hrs



Q- Will I be expected to chair?

A- No, you will be placed on a panel with an experienced Chair

Q- What support is available?

A- An experienced clerk, a bank of resources, example questions, evidence checklist, deliberations checklist and more!



If you would like any further information please feel free to contact:

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