

Good Governance: the elevator pitch

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For those unfamiliar with the popular American phrase, the elevator pitch is a clear, concise, compelling few words with a core message...here is my A – Z of good governance in ‘less is more’ style.

Ambassadors: good governors and trustees are powerful ambassadors for their organisations and communities.

Boards: effective boards skilfully weigh their oversight and insight roles.

Chair: the professional understanding between the chair and the executive leader is arguably the decisive factor in the success of an organisation.

Delegation: practising proper levels of delegation lies at the heart of a thriving governing board.

Executive: knowing where governance ends, and executive practice begins, is a hallmark of the successful board.

Fires: addressing and resolving conflicts and emergencies are true tests of confident governance.

Guests: thoughtful boards know when to look outwards to refresh their established thinking and practices.

Housekeeping: the wise governing body has shared expectations of its own housekeeping rules.

Interviewing: staging and managing high quality interviews of all descriptions lie at the core of strong governance.

Judgements: the wisdom, timing and communication of decision making shapes top governance.

Knowledge: the highly respected governing body comprehensively ‘knows its onions’.

Lorenzetti: vibrant organisations celebrate strong leadership at all levels.

Minutes: ‘the person who controls the minutes controls the meetings.’

Nolan: seven elegant principles of public life worth observing, at every turn.

Optimism: optimism radiates from confident school leaders and board chairs.

People: capable trustees never lose sight of the fact that they are in the people business.

Questions: asking great questions – and listening keenly to the answers – are hallmarks of successful governing boards.

Risks: an acute eye on balancing risks is ever on the governance agenda.

Seneca: the accomplished board is comfortable in its own skin.

Training: time is well spent training a board to be the best it can be.

Unconventional: valuing the unorthodox and the maverick is critical to fine governance.

Volunteers: motivating a group of volunteers ‘to turn up next time’ should not be underplayed.

Walkabout: engaged boards make time to walk around the ‘estate’ of the organisation.

Xenacious: scanning the horizon for ‘what next’ distinguishes excellent governance.

Youth: successful boards ensure wise succession planning.

Zoom: conducting business virtually requires different skillsets.

The above is an extract from [The A – Z of Good Governance](#) by Roy Blatchford