Good governance:
The transition from a system of maintained schools under the auspices of Local Authorities to a landscape comprising of charitable companies of various sizes continues to present significant challenges for those charged with implementing good governance in academies. We know from experience that fixed cost early access to legal support is an effective way of managing governance risks.

Eversheds has created a unique service for Business Managers, Clerks, Company Secretaries, Directors and Members of single academies, multi academy trusts, free schools, studio schools and UTCs as well as those that sponsor them.

Academy Governance benefits include:

**Governance helpline**
The helpline gives 24 hour access via phone or e-mail to our team of governance experts. It covers any query in relation to:
- the memorandum and articles of association
- funding agreement
- the Academies Financial Handbook
- Governors’ Handbook
- charity law
- schemes of delegation
- roles of directors and members
- statutory registers and Companies House returns
- relationships between sponsors and academy trusts
- conduct of board and general meetings
- boardroom disputes
- collaboration arrangements

A summary of the most interesting and popular helpline question asked will be published each month with a detailed response.

**Annotated copy of the memorandum and articles of association and funding agreement**
Via text incorporated into the DfE model document our commentary sets out the key themes and some of the challenges academies face with governance.

**Briefings**
Subscribers receive a variety of briefings on issues relevant to academy governance including an overview of the funding agreement, a note on the powers and responsibilities of directors, members and charitable trustees.

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