



NEWS RELEASE
For immediate use
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Clerk to governors of 12 Stoke schools scoops national award for outstanding practice

Fiona Stagg, clerk to the governing board of 12 schools across Stoke-on Trent and North Staffordshire, received a special commendation in the outstanding clerk to a governing board at the National Governance Association's (NGA) Outstanding Governance Awards 2017 on Tuesday 5 September. The category recognises the work undertaken by clerks including a thorough understanding of what the role and functions of a governing board are; the ability to be the governing board's critical friend; and something special that they have brought to the governing board beyond the basics.

Providing clerking services to a number of schools across Stoke-on-Trent and North Staffordshire including two Multi Academy Trusts, a special school and Glebe Academy in Fenton who supported Fiona's nomination. Fiona is also a National Leader of Governance and Chair of Governors at St Johns CE Primary School in Wetley Rocks. Fiona plays a leading role in raising standards of clerking by producing a monthly governance newsletter for governors and trustees at local schools, writing a light-hearted blog on clerking and delivers the National College for Teaching and Leadership Clerks Development Programme to existing and aspiring clerks.

She was among twelve governing boards and five clerks who received awards presented by Lord Nash (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the School System) to recognise the unique and inspiring contribution that school governors, trustees and clerks make every single day in schools around the country. Each of the finalists was recognised and thanked by the NGA, the judges and Lord Nash for their significant voluntary contribution to education and their impact on lives of so many young people.

Announcing Fiona's special commendation, category winner, judges Mandy Parsons and Stephen Adamson described her as "passionate about governance" and praised her recognition of "the pivotal role of the clerk in ensuring a healthy culture where ideas are shared and debated." Judges also commended Fiona's work in "ensuring the smooth running of the board", "striving for accuracy and quality in her work", and "seeing her role as facilitating well-informed debates."

Fiona Stagg said: "I was thrilled to be a finalist in the NGA outstanding clerk category and to hear Lord Nash recognise the role clerks play in supporting governing boards. In my role as a clerk it was an honour to represent both Glebe Academy and Stoke-on-Trent at the awards ceremony. Clerks play a

small but crucial part in helping governors in their role in improving pupil outcomes across the City. It is a pleasure to clerk in the schools that I work with locally and to share in their governance journeys.”

Emma Knights, Chief Executive of the National Governance Association, said: “Our finalists for the Outstanding Governance Awards 2017 all demonstrate how good governance and clerking can be. They show how they make a real difference to the achievement of and opportunities for children and young people. It takes commitment, skill, teamwork and clarity of direction to do what these people do and we are proud to celebrate them at the House of Commons.”

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Notes to editors

WORD COUNT = 499

Catch up with the event as it happened on Twitter – @NGAMedia #NGAwards

About NGA

The National Governance Association (NGA) is an independent charity representing and supporting governors, trustees and clerks in maintained schools and academies in England. The NGA’s goal is to improve the well-being of children and young people by increasing the effectiveness of governing boards and promoting high standards. It does this by providing information, guidance, research, advice and training. It also works closely with, and lobbies, UK government and educational bodies, and is the campaigning national membership organisation for school governors and trustees.
www.nga.org.uk

The Outstanding Governance Awards are held every two years to celebrate the unique and inspiring contribution that school governors, trustees and clerks make every single day in schools around the country. The national awards were free to enter and open to any state school in England.

2017 finalists in full:

Outstanding governance in a single school

- Brooklands School, Surrey
- Fairfield Park Lower School, Bedfordshire - WINNER
- Holmes Chapel Primary, Cheshire East – RUNNER UP
- Millennium Primary School, London - WINNER
- Redland Green School, Bristol
- Sir John Barrow School, Cumbria - WINNER
- Torquay Academy, Devon

Outstanding governance in a multi academy trust or federation

- CORE Education Trust, Birmingham – RUNNER UP
- The Spring Partnership Trust, Kent - WINNER

Outstanding vision and strategy

- Hiltingbury Infant School, Eastleigh – RUNNER UP
- Nexus Multi Academy Trust, Rotherham - WINNER

Outstanding clerk to a governing board

- Sally Wood, Holsworthy Area Federation, Devon
- Steve Vale, Reading School, Reading
- Fiona Stagg, Glebe Academy, Stoke-on-Trent
- Angie Marchant, Colham Manor Primary School, Uxbridge - WINNER
- Sylvia Baldwin, The Bligh Federation, Kent

School governors and trustees have three core functions:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the performance management of staff
- Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent