



Expert Governance & Clerking Support for Schools and Trusts

Giving you peace of mind with confident
statutory compliance, effective governance,
and trusted strategic support.

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Independent advice. Practical support. Consistent delivery.

Judicium Education provides expert, independent governance support to schools and trusts across England, giving you peace of mind that your governance is compliant, effective, and strategically focused.

We help boards confidently fulfil their statutory responsibilities, strengthen governance practice, and reduce administrative burden, so leaders can focus on driving educational success.

Backed by Governance Professionals trained in partnership with the National Governance Association (NGA) and supported by our wider education, compliance, and legal specialists, Judicium provides more than clerking; you'll gain a professional governance partner committed to strengthening decision making, reducing risk, and helping boards lead with confidence.

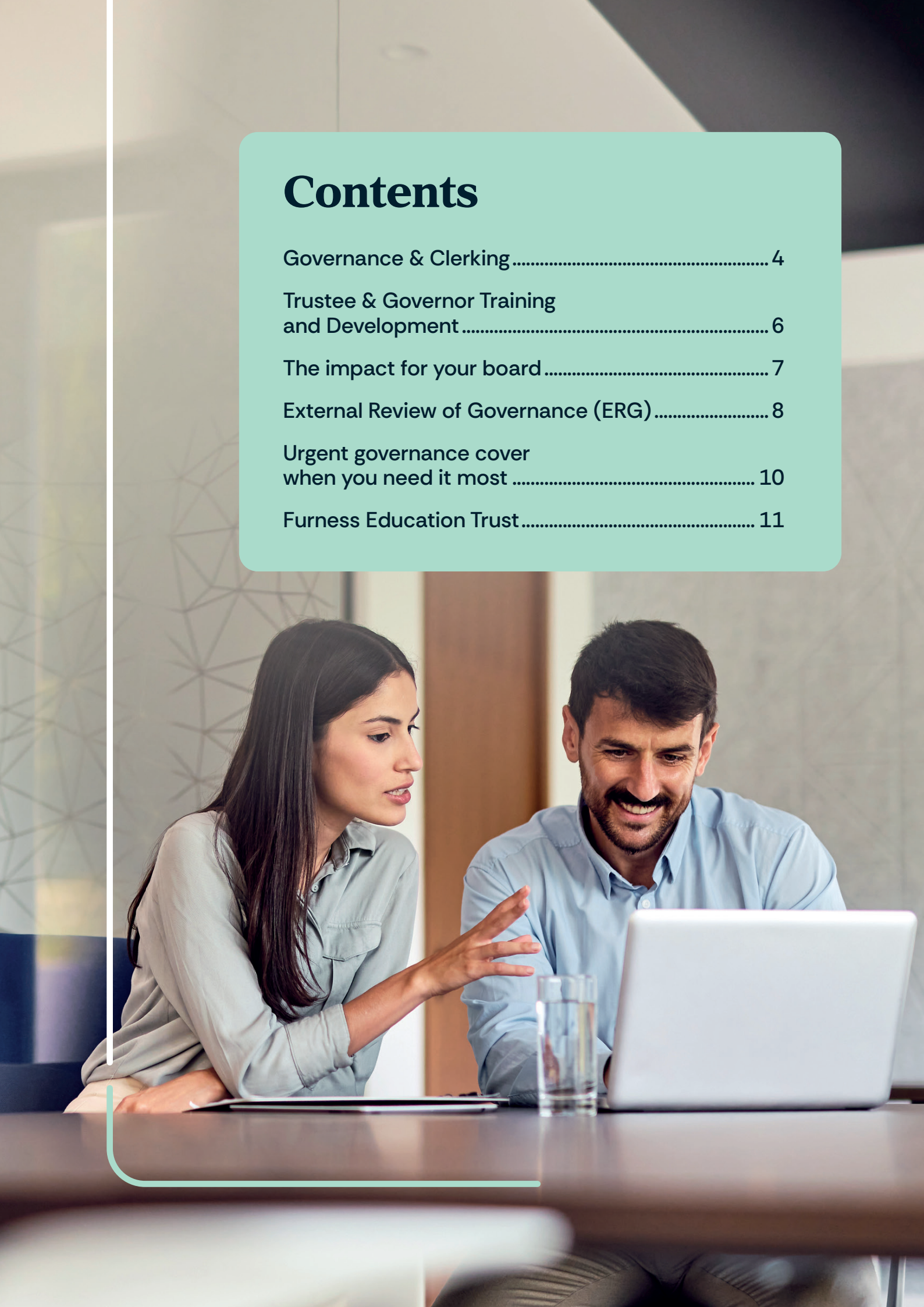
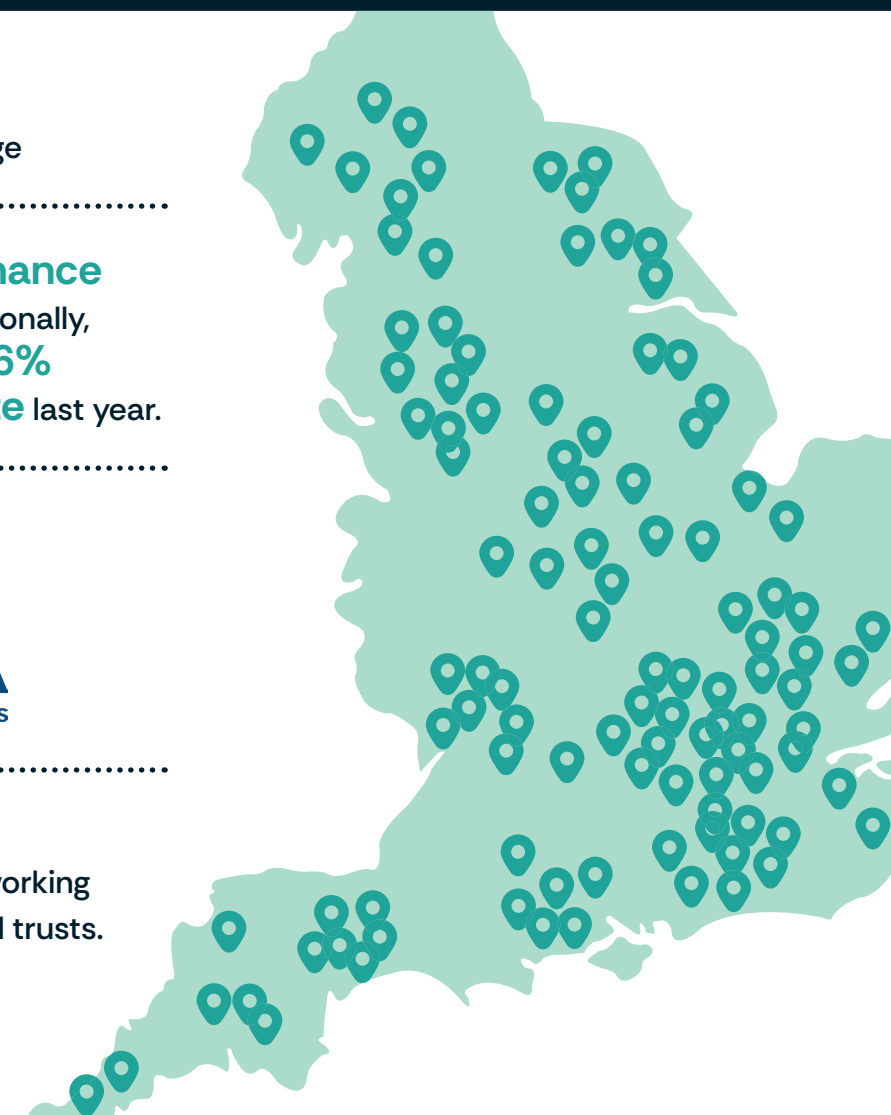
National coverage

2,850 governance meetings nationally, achieving a **99.6% fulfilment rate** last year.

NGA aligned training model

NGA
For Schools & Trusts

30 years of experience working with schools and trusts.



Governance & Clerking

Clarity, compliance and confidence for effective boards

Our Governance & Clerking service gives boards the confidence that governance is structured, compliant and effective all year round.

Each client is supported by a dedicated Governance Professional who acts as adviser, critical friend and trusted governance partner, helping boards stay focused, informed and well prepared for every decision.

A fully supported governance framework:

- ✔ Dedicated Judicium Governance Professional providing consistent, expert support and continuity
- ✔ On-demand governance advice (email and phone support during working hours) to support confident, timely decision making
- ✔ Proactive agenda planning and meeting preparation to ensure focus on the right strategic priorities
- ✔ Attendance at board and committee meetings, ensuring discussions are well supported and properly governed
- ✔ Clear, accurate and compliant minutes that capture decisions, actions and accountability (circulated within ~10 working days)
- ✔ Secure governance record keeping, ensuring information is organised, accessible and audit-ready
- ✔ Regular updates on governance developments, regulatory change and Ofsted expectations so boards stay ahead of requirements
- ✔ Annual skills audit and website compliance review to strengthen effectiveness and transparency
- ✔ Policy tracking and review oversight to ensure nothing is missed and responsibilities are clear

“Thank you for sending us such a phenomenal gift, which is Helen. She absolutely meets our expectations...we could not be happier. We are looking forward to a long and excellent working relationship with her!”

Emma Nolan, Chair of Governors | Belthorn Academy Primary School

Designed for:



MAT boards and committees seeking consistent, high-quality governance support



Maintained school governing boards wanting reassurance and structure



Independent schools, FE colleges and PRUs looking to strengthen governance effectiveness and compliance



Trustee & Governor Training and Development

Building confident, effective governance

A structured, expert-led governance development programme designed to strengthen board capability, improve decision making and ensure governors and trustees stay confident, informed and compliant throughout the year.

Delivered through live webinars, on-demand learning and regular updates, it supports both induction and ongoing development for governance across all phases of education.

How we support your board

- ✓ Termly live governance webinars focused on key priorities and emerging issues
- ✓ CPD-accredited eLearning library for flexible, on-demand development
- ✓ Targeted modules for induction and role-specific learning
- ✓ Monthly updates on regulatory, policy and sector change



The impact for your board

Our training and development programme builds stronger, more knowledgeable boards by creating shared understanding, increasing confidence in challenge and decision-making, and ensuring access to flexible learning — all while keeping governance knowledge current, compliant and relevant

Strong foundations in governance

- ✓ **The Role of Local Governance in a MAT:** Understanding structure and impact
- ✓ **New to Governance:** Clarity on roles, responsibilities and expectations

Safeguarding, inclusion & outcomes

- ✓ **Introduction to Safeguarding for Governors and Trustees**
- ✓ **Pupil Premium:** Driving impact through effective oversight

Accountability & leadership

- ✓ **Preparedness for Ofsted:** understanding governance expectations
- ✓ **Headteacher Appraisal:** Getting it right as a board

Compliance & assurance

- ✓ **Complaints:** The Role of Governance
- ✓ **Introduction to School Finance**

“Excellent, [Hot Topics was] really informative and helpful, I liked the delivery style – 10 out of 10!”

Michelle Clemons, Headteacher | Wolston St Margaret's C of E Primary School

External Review of Governance (ERG)

Independent insight that strengthens governance

An External Review of Governance provides boards with an objective, expert-led assessment of how effectively governance operates in practice — helping identify strengths, uncover gaps and prioritise the changes that will have the greatest impact.

Aligned to Department for Education guidance, ERGs are recommended as part of a wider cycle of governance self-assessment and improvement, with boards encouraged to commission a review every three years as good practice. For boards navigating growth, leadership change or increased scrutiny, independent review is an especially powerful tool.

The value beyond compliance

- ✓ Independent, expert perspective beyond internal self-review
- ✓ Clear identification of governance strengths, risks and improvement priorities
- ✓ Greater board confidence, capability and strategic effectiveness
- ✓ Robust assurance of statutory and regulatory expectations
- ✓ Practical recommendations that support immediate and longer term improvement

A closer look at governance in practice

Our review assesses the organisation, behaviours and systems that underpin effective governance, including governance structures, delegation and terms of reference; board and committee practice, challenge and decision making; statutory and regulatory compliance; and governance impact, capability and overall effectiveness.

Clear evidence. Practical next steps.

Clients receive a structured review process that delivers meaningful, actionable insight:

- ✓ Governance documentation and framework review
- ✓ Stakeholder interviews across governance and leadership
- ✓ A comprehensive written report detailing findings, recommendations and suggested actions.



DfE recommended:
External reviews should form part of a board's wider improvement cycle

.....

Every 3 years:
Recommended review frequency as part of governance best practice

.....

More than self-evaluation:
Independent review can provide stronger diagnostic insight

Urgent governance cover when you need it most

Additional governance meetings and rapid response support

Our pre-purchased meeting bank provides fast, reliable access to professional governance support for high-pressure or unplanned situations.

Situations can include:

- ✔ Complaints panels
- ✔ Exclusions and suspension hearings
- ✔ Investigation appeals
- ✔ Extraordinary board or committee meetings
- ✔ Trustee and governor panels

Each meeting includes expert governance advice, virtual attendance, agenda support, compliant minute drafting and secure record keeping, giving boards confidence when it matters most.

Independent investigations for complex governance challenges

For sensitive, complex or escalated governance matters, Judicium provides independent governance investigations that help boards navigate challenges with fairness, clarity and confidence.

Commissioned where concerns require external objectivity, our investigations support boards by reviewing governance practice, assessing process and providing evidence-led recommendations.

Our investigations follow a clear, structured process that includes an independent review of relevant documentation, stakeholder interviews and clear, factual findings, resulting in a written report that sets out the issues identified, key governance observations and practical, proportionate recommendations.

Providing boards with assurance, clarity and confidence during challenging governance situations.



CASE STUDY

Furness Education Trust



Furness Education Trust supports five primary schools and two secondary schools, serving around 2,600 students with almost 500 staff. As the trust expanded, governance demands became increasingly complex, with multiple governing bodies, trust board meetings and committee meetings requiring consistent oversight and specialist expertise.

Following several staffing changes, Chief Operating Officer Amy Warner faced what she described as “a square peg and round hole” situation when trying to resource the clerking function internally.

“We were looking at a lot more meetings, and it was not feasible for one person to be picking that up on top of their day job,” says Amy. “We didn’t have the expertise in our organisation for someone to take it on.” Consistency across governance processes, communication and compliance was also a key priority.

Furness Education Trust partnered with Judicium Education in 2023 and now benefits from a dedicated remote clerk, Jane Wynn, who supports governance across the trust.

Jane helps set agendas, follows up actions and reminders, provides advice during meetings and produces detailed minutes. She also keeps the trust informed about relevant statutory, legal and governance developments.

“It just takes a huge amount of pressure off us having that point of contact,” says Amy. “If something comes up governance-related, it’s a quick email or phone call to Jane or one of her Judicium colleagues.”

“It’s great that we can use Judicium as a professional sounding board,” says Amy. “It helps us make sure that we are on top of the latest statutory and legal requirements and best practice and that we are continually moving forward.”

The service also includes an online governance platform, giving governors easy access to meeting papers and documentation ahead of meetings, reducing administration and improving preparation.

The partnership has strengthened consistency and confidence across governance at every level of the trust. Access to expert advice and professional support helps ensure Furness Education Trust remains up to date with statutory requirements and best practice.

For a trust serving both urban and rural communities in South Cumbria, having immediate access to specialist governance expertise has been particularly valuable.

Scan this QR code to read the full case study

Judicium Education

Furness Education Trust

Judicium Education case study

Furness Education Trust

Furness Education Trust in South Cumbria

Over the last 12 years, the trust has expanded its footprint, now supporting five primary schools and two secondary schools, serving around 2,600 students with almost 500 staff. As the trust expanded, governance demands became increasingly complex, with multiple governing bodies, trust board meetings and committee meetings requiring consistent oversight and specialist expertise.

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The trust’s expansion has brought with it a range of challenges, including a need for more consistent governance across the trust. Access to expert advice and professional support helps ensure Furness Education Trust remains up to date with statutory requirements and best practice.

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**Confidence in
governance.
Clarity in
decision making.
Assurance in
every outcome.**

Judicium partner

Contact

**Speak to us about your
governance needs**

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