

King Edward VI Foundation Birmingham uses BoardEffect for efficiency and seamless governance

King Edward VI Foundation Birmingham case study

Organisation overview

King Edward VI Foundation Birmingham is comprised of 14 secondary schools, educating more than 11,000 children in the Birmingham area. With a history of supporting excellence in education spanning hundreds of years, the vision of Academy Trust is to be a leader in transforming lives and futures through educational experience and opportunity.

Deborah Canton serves as the Head of Governance for King Edward VI Foundation Birmingham and the King Edward VI Academy Trust Birmingham. She is responsible for overseeing governance for two boards — one serving the Foundation and the second, serving the Trust. Approximately 160 governors, supporting the 14 individual school boards and the two primary boards, rely on Deborah for her leadership in effective board management and governance.

Organisation: King Edward VI Foundation Birmingham

Industry: Education

Location: Birmingham, United Kingdom

The challenge

Managing multiple boards with efficiency

As the Head of Governance in this complex organisation, Deborah oversees all Trust and Foundation Board meetings and provides guidance to the individual school boards that convene three times annually. While not directly involved in choosing BoardEffect, she had to convince staff and governors that using BoardEffect, for preparing and viewing board books, to support committee work and improve security overall, was more efficient than with their previous solution.

“This was a challenge at first because after adapting to our previous board solution, the governors were not inclined to work with another solution even if it was far superior,” Deborah says. She explains that when dealing with so many governors, it can be difficult for them to all adjust to new solutions.



Yet, while the transition to BoardEffect took several months amidst resistance from many of the volunteer governors, the actual technical migration to BoardEffect was seamless.

“The BoardEffect team was outstanding with exceptional training and customer service. We quickly learned how to use the solution’s many features like the meeting book viewer, annotation, and surveys and polls. Again, the hurdle was to convince the governors that BoardEffect was the best solution and would make their jobs so much easier,” she adds.

The solution

BoardEffect’s comprehensive and efficient software

“Despite some hesitancy to take advantage of BoardEffect’s many exceptional features, the governors eventually bought into it and now they love it,” Deborah explains. She adds that it helped when a few key governors began to use features like annotations and notes. Once they saw how they could use the technology any time and from any device, or review board papers and make notes easily, they started to embrace BoardEffect more and more.


“In fact, now when any new procedure or rule is initiated, they want it to be available on BoardEffect,” she says.

The solution gives governors convenient access to all communications, board materials, working groups along with unique features such as annotations, dashboards and surveys. With 160 governors located in a wide geographic area, it is essential that they can access, review and comment on information well before board meetings. This fosters better decision-making on behalf of the educational system.

A highly valued BoardEffect feature is the ability to participate in polls or surveys on various topics without being present at meetings. “While we prefer to vote on issues in person, sometimes, it’s not possible. But we can rely on secure and confidential voting with BoardEffect,” Deborah adds.

Another important feature is Permissions Control which allows only those authorised to access confidential information. This has proven to be valuable to Academy Trust governors as they engage with lawmakers, interested citizens or others in the community.

BoardEffect’s Document Library is also highly beneficial as it serves as a repository for historic and current information. Critical governance documents, meeting minutes and other vital materials are stored in one secure place for easy access.



“ BoardEffect has saved us from having to hire an additional admin. It’s like an extra member of staff for us.”

Deborah Canton
Head of Governance



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Deborah Canton
Head of Governance

The results

Engaged governors and greater efficiency

BoardEffect has significantly enhanced operations and governance for the Academy Trust, Foundation and individual school boards since being widely accepted by governors. With approximately 230 users throughout the education system, BoardEffect gives governors and staff the tools to help them make better decisions on behalf of the students in Birmingham.

Since governors are using BoardEffect's many features, such as surveys and polls, the viewer function, confidential workrooms and document library, they have a keen understanding of how BoardEffect helps them work faster and smarter especially when they are volunteering their time.

"Our educational structure is extremely large and diverse. The more flexibility and control we have through BoardEffect, the more effective our governors can be," she explains.

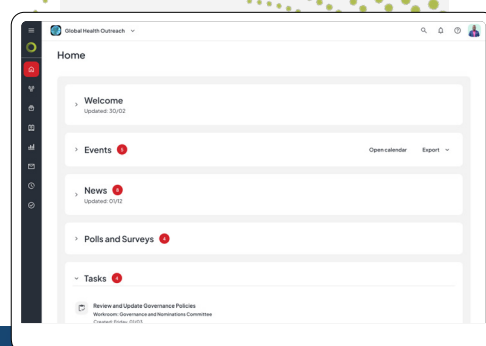
For Deborah, the ability to create board books and agendas, digitally disseminate annual notices and automatically communicate to 160 directors without email has made a huge difference in her daily responsibilities.

"BoardEffect has potentially saved us from having to hire an additional administrative member of staff," she says.

If there's a message Deborah has for other school governing boards migrating to BoardEffect, it is to be patient with any pushback, demonstrate the incredible functionality of the software and show, in real-time, how BoardEffect improves efficiency and enhances governance.



- ✓ Significant time savings and increased efficiency
- ✓ Streamlined communications
- ✓ Enhanced security and confidentiality
- ✓ Greater governor engagement



About Board Effect

BoardEffect, a Diligent brand, provides innovative boardroom technology to volunteer boards and mission-driven organisations. Diligent, the leading governance, risk and compliance SaaS company, empowers more than 1 million users and 700,000 board members and leaders to clarify risk and elevate governance. BoardEffect is part of the Diligent One Platform which helps organisations manage complex risk, stay ahead of regulatory changes and deliver impactful insights, in one consolidated view. So boards and leaders can make better decisions, faster.

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