



General Information about becoming a School Governor

What is a Parent Governor?

Parent governors are elected by and from parents of registered pupils on the school roll. They should be parents of pupils currently at the school at the time of their election. Parent governors are elected to represent the parental point of view but are not delegates. Parent governors are not required to stand down when their child leaves the school, during their term of office (4 years) and are entitled to see out their term, though they may choose to stand down if they so wish. They may stand for re-election at the end of their term if they still have a child on the school roll.

Is there a Job Description?

The purpose of the post is to contribute to the work of the governing body in raising standards of achievement for all pupils. This involves providing a strategic view for the school, acting as a critical friend and ensuring accountability. The individual governor has a responsibility, working alongside other members of the governing body, to the staff and pupils of the school, the school's wider community and where they are representatives, to their particular constituency (parents/ carers; staff; teachers; other stakeholders etc). Although some governors may represent particular constituencies they are not delegates of that group.

Responsibilities include:

- Developing and shaping the strategic plan for the school
- Determining aims, policies and priorities of the school
- Setting statutory targets
- Monitoring and evaluating the work of the school
- Appointment of staff, adhering to the relevant personnel procedures
- Management of the budget
- Securing high levels of attendance and good standards of pupil behaviour
- Ensuring that all children in the school have access to a broad and balanced curriculum which is suitable to age, aptitude and ability, which prepares them for life
- Ensuring the health and safety of pupils and staff

Tasks include:

- Getting to know the school's needs, strengths and areas for development
- Attending meetings (full governing body, committees and any working groups)
- working as a member of a team
- Speaking, acting and voting in the best interests of the school as one perceives them
- Representing the perspectives of constituencies, where appropriate
- Respecting all governing body decisions and to support them in public
- Acting within the framework of the governing body policies and legal requirements
- Committing to training and development opportunities

Requirements to consider when thinking about becoming a governor:

- Interest or background in education
- Appropriate availability
- Good communication/interpersonal skills
- Ability to work as part of a team
- Undertaking to participate in the governors' training programme
- A desire to support the school
- Other relevant experience

What is the code of conduct?

Governor conduct is underpinned by the following key principles:

- To act in the best interests of the school – this may require balancing short and long term issues, school and community issues etc
- To work as a member of a team at all times and be loyal to collective decisions made by the governing body
- To recognise that all governors have the same rights and responsibilities unless particular responsibilities are conferred on them by the full governing body
- To understand that no governor can act alone except in exceptional circumstances prescribed in the regulations – the power of the governing body rests in it acting as a single body

Governors must:

- Respect confidentiality
- Listen to and respect the views of others
- Express their own views clearly and succinctly
- Take their fair share of work/positions of responsibility
- Know, understand and work within the prescribed regulatory framework
- Report any evidence of fraud, corruption or misconduct to an appropriate person

And should:

- Prepare for meetings by reading papers beforehand
- Take responsibility for their own learning and development as a governor including attending training
- Attend meetings promptly, regularly, and for the full time