

Being a school governor

Time commitment

The term for the elected parent governor is four years. There are typically three Full Governing Body (FGB) meetings per year, which all governors are expected to attend. These are usually held from 5.00pm to around 6.30pm on dates that suit the current membership. Governors also spend time reading papers and preparing questions prior to meetings, as well as carrying out school visits, attending training and being members of committees, working groups or panels as required. You should expect to spend around ten days a year on duties (equating to half a day per fortnight in term time) and up to 20 days a year if you take on chairing responsibilities.

Training

You would be expected to complete the Governor Induction Programme provided by the local authority. There are also other training courses you can attend as required and there are online learning modules you can undertake in your own time. The local authority also provides advice and guidance by phone and email.

The governing body

Our governing body is made up of two parent governors, one staff governor, the headteacher, one local authority governor and nine co-opted governors appointed by the governing body. Governors contribute to the work of the governing body in raising standards of achievements for all pupils. This involves providing a strategic view for the school, acting as a critical friend and ensuring accountability.

Parent governors

Parent governors are not elected to represent all the parents, but to bring the voice of a parent to the governing body. Although parent governors may be regarded as the official channel for parents' views, there are usually other methods for parents to make their views known. In governing body meetings, parent governors vote after hearing the views of all governors so they can make an informed decision.

Governor responsibilities

- Developing the strategic plan for the school, determining aims, policies and priorities
- Setting statutory and non-statutory targets
- Monitoring and evaluating the work of the school
- Appointing staff and ensuring the implementation of personnel procedures
- Managing the school 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, preparing them for adult life
- Ensuring the health and safety of pupils

Tasks include:

- Getting to know the school: its needs, strengths and areas for development
- Attending governing body meetings (including working groups and panels)
- Working as a member of a team
- Speaking, acting and voting in the best interests of the school
- Respecting all governing body decisions and supporting them in public
- Acting within the framework of the policies and legal requirements
- Attending training and developing opportunities appropriate to role