

Becoming a Parent Governor - Frequently Asked Questions:

Who's eligible to become a Parent Governor?

Anyone who is the parent or carer of a child registered at school at the time of a parent governor election or appointment can become a parent governor.

How long is the term?

The term is usually four years. Even if your child leaves the school during this time, you can carry on until the four-year term is up.

Who are the Governors at Mary Exton Primary School?

You can find details of the current governors on our school website. The Board of Governors comprises parent governors, a staff governor, a local authority, co-opted governors and the head teacher. The Board of Governors elects a chair and vice-chair from among its members. Currently Karen Gordon and Sue Hughes are co-chairs Katie Alfred is the vice-chair.

How often do you meet?

Governing Board meetings are held once every half term. In addition, there are meetings of sub-committees, which happen at least once a term. At Mary Exton, we have two sub-committees School Improvement and Resources. They report to the FGB. Each governor is a member of a sub-committee.

What does the Board of Governors do?

The Board of Governors is responsible for developing the strategic direction, policies and objectives of the school, and reviewing progress against objectives and targets. We support the Senior Leadership Team, and sometimes play a part in appointing staff. We oversee management of the school's finances and approve the budget. We ensure that the school has a broad and balanced curriculum and agree targets for pupil achievement. We make sure that the school's buildings are welcoming and safe, and that the school makes a wider contribution to the local community.

What about the 'parent' part of the parent governor role?

As a parent governor, you are not representing or reporting back to parents. As a parent, your experience and understanding of the day-to-day life of the school gives you a perspective that will be useful in your role as a governor, but you are acting and making decisions in the best interests of the whole school, its staff and pupils.

Do I need any special skills or experience to be a governor?

No special skills or experience are required but please let us know on your nomination form details of expertise, skills and experience that you have.

Is any training available?

Yes. Training courses are offered by Hertfordshire County Council, and you will receive more information about training available when you become a governor.

What if I have questions that aren't answered here?

Please feel free to contact Karen Gordon – Co-Chair of Governors or Angharad Morris – Headteacher via the school office.