

## What does the Governing Body do?

*“The role of the governing body has changed beyond recognition over the past twenty years. With the introduction of local management of schools and further reforms, governing bodies have become the strategic leaders of schools. They are rightly responsible and accountable in law and in practice for major decisions about the school and its future. Governing bodies are equal partners in leadership with the headteacher and senior management team.”* DfES, 2004

The purpose of the Governing Body is to help the school to provide the best possible education for its pupils by:

- Setting the school’s values, vision and strategic aims, agreeing plans and policies, and making creative use of resources
- Monitoring and evaluating performance, acting as a critical friend to the headteacher to support and challenge them in managing the school
- By ensuring that the school is accountable to the children and parents it serves, to its local community, to those who fund and maintain it, as well as to the staff it employs.

The Barby School Governing Body meets once a term to discuss matters arising from the Headteacher’s report and the financial report. Matters arising from Governor visits to school and reports from committee meetings (see below) are also discussed. The meetings are an opportunity to review targets and to plan for future improvements to the school’s performance.

The Governing Body has set up one sub-committee (with delegated powers) and five permanent working parties (monitoring purposes only). Membership of these are decided at the first full Governors’ Meeting in the academic year.

The **Finance Working Party** monitors the financial and accounting arrangements required to control and monitor income and expenditure within the confines of the school’s delegated budget.

The **Premises Working Party** is responsible for property and maintenance in liaison with the Technical Services Department.

The **Management and Personnel Working Party** covers the majority of management responsibilities relating to personnel matters, although in law the Local Authority remains the legal employer of school staff.

The **Curriculum Working Party** covers the monitoring of the school curriculum provision, ensuring that National Curriculum requirements are met. It monitors the targeting and assessment methods and advises the governing body on curriculum matters.

The **Co-ordination Working Party** consists of the headteacher, chair, vice-chair and chairs of the various working parties. It co-ordinates the work of the various groups.

The **Standing Committee** decides on staff dismissal and pupil exclusion. The remainder of the governing body hears any appeals. In practice the membership of the Standing Committee is the same as the personnel working party.