

Being a school governor

Time commitment

The term for the elected parent governor is four years; however you can resign at any time. There are currently three full governing body meetings per term, which all governors are expected to attend and are usually in the early evening. In addition to preparatory work for meetings such as reading documents which can be lengthy, governors usually develop an area of specialism and visit the school at other times (perhaps termly) to fulfil any monitoring requirements. Between meetings communications are usually by email and occasionally require an urgent response.

Training

You would be expected to complete the Governor Induction Programme provided by the local authority, which comprises five hours (in two short sessions or one long session) that are run regularly throughout the year, with daytime and evening choices. There are also other training courses you can attend and shorter online learning modules to develop your understanding. The local authority also provides advice and guidance.

The governing body

Each governing body is made up of some elected members (parents and staff) and others appointed due to their skills and experience, e.g co-opted and local authority governors. Governors act collectively and contribute to the work of the governing body in working with the headteacher and senior leadership team in raising standards of achievements for all pupils.

Parent governors

Parent governors are not elected to represent all the parents as there are usually other methods for parents to make their views known but to bring the voice of a parent to the governing body.

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 senior leadership 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 health and safety

Tasks include:

- Getting to know the school: its needs, strengths and areas for development
- 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

What's in it for me?

- You will gain some valuable experiences that will have an impact on your personal and professional life. You will meet new people, develop teamwork skills and learn more about how schools work. You could gain experience of budget setting, interviewing for staff or developing policies. If you eventually become a chair of governors, we provide support and training to develop your leadership skills and confidence.
- Above all, you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you have made a real difference to the development of children, young people, their school and the community.