

What we expect from governors

Effective governors do not need educational expertise but do need to be committed to their school, willing to ask questions and act as a critical friend. They also need to be able to work as an enthusiastic member of the governing body team.

You do not need specialist knowledge or training to become a governor. It is your lay and community experiences that the governing body requires. However you will become knowledgeable by being a governor and this can help you to participate more fully in your local community or even open up opportunities for you personally, for example involvement in a Parents Teachers and Friends Association (PTFA), voluntary work within school or an awareness of new employment opportunities.

Realistically, as a school governor, you will need to attend one full governing body meeting each term. You will also be asked to serve on at least one committee which will probably meet once or occasionally twice a term. So that is about three meetings per term.

You will need to get to know your school well (if you don't already) preferably by visiting when the school is in session and the pupils are in school. However this may not always be possible and some governors keep in touch with school life through after school events such as fundraising or charity events, Parents Teachers and Friends Association meetings, sports days, school parties and holidays.

How to apply

There are different categories of governor. The procedures for appointment or election depend on the category and the date when the governing body was constituted. Some people cannot become governors, find out more about the [grounds for disqualification](#).

The categories of governor at Our Lady and All Saints Catholic Primary School are:

- Foundation governors
- Local authority governors
- Parent governors

- Staff governors
- Co-opted governors

Foundation governors

Foundation governors are appointed by the body or bodies named in the Instrument of Government. For Our Lady and All Saints Catholic Primary School, this is the Archdiocese of Liverpool. They are appointed to preserve and develop the religious character of the school, and to secure compliance with the trust deed. Normally, foundation governors serve for a four year term of office.

Local Authority governors

Local authority governors are appointed by the local authority (Lancashire County Council) or nominated by the local authority and appointed by the governing body.

Parent governors

Parents, including carers, of pupils at the school are eligible to stand for election as parent governors. They are elected by other parents. If not enough parents stand for election, the governing body can appoint parent governors. The headteacher makes arrangements for holding an election if there is a vacancy for a parent governor at the school.

Staff governors

Staff governors are elected by the school staff. Both teaching and support staff employed to work at the school are eligible for staff governorship; volunteers are not eligible.

Co-opted governors

Co-opted governors are appointed by the governing body and are people who the governing body believes have skills which will contribute to the effective governance and success of the school.

There is no restriction on the categories of people who can be appointed as co-opted governors.