

The Governing Body of Villiers High School

The Role of the Governing Body

The role of the Governing Body is to provide support and guidance to the Head Teacher and Staff.

The Governing Body has three main roles:-

1. Strategic

The Governing Body sets the general direction of the school, looking at how it should best develop. This is done by reviewing and agreeing policies, targets and priorities and monitoring and reviewing aims and objectives.

Strategic thinking is not only linked with the curriculum and it does not just mean responding to weaknesses.

2. Critical Friend

The Governing Body must work closely with the Head Teacher and create a clear understanding of the challenges faced in managing a school.

The Governing Body must feel able to question and challenge. Real critical friendship is only achieved where there is trust and mutual respect.

3. Accountability

A school is a business and its stakeholders are the pupils. The Governing Body must have a professional attitude and use its collective skills to benefit the pupils. It must gather views, ask questions and decide what is best for the school.

The governing body is answerable to parents and the wider community.

The Governing Body is collectively responsible for setting the strategic direction of the school and for monitoring the schools performance

What is a School Governor

School Governors are drawn from all walks of life and as you will see below there are various types of Governors.

Whilst Governors give their service voluntarily and no formal qualifications are necessary there are certain eligibility criteria.

Governors are ordinary people, aged over 18, with a special commitment to the education and wellbeing of children.

The term of office for Governors is normally four years.

There are typically four or five types of Governors:

- Staff Governors
- Parent Governors
- Co-opted Governors
- Local Authority Governors
- Partnership Governors

Staff Governors

Staff governors would normally fall into one of two categories; either Teaching Staff or Support Staff.

Staff Governors are elected by teaching and support staff who are paid to work at the school.

This category will also include a reserved place for the Headteacher.

Parent Governors

Parent governors as the title implies are drawn from Parents or Guardians of Children at the School.

Parent Governors normally serve for a period of 4 years and are elected by the Parents or Carers / Guardians of Children at the School.

From time to time the school will send home a letter notifying parents that there is a vacancy for a Parent Governor, and seeking nominations.

If there are more nominations than there are vacancies, then there will be a ballot at which point all of the parents get to vote for the candidate(s) of their choice.

As a Parent Governor, elected by parents, the role of the Parent Governor is to bring a parental perspective to the Governing Bodies decision making rather than represent the parental constituency.

Co-opted Governors

Co-opted Governors are normally drawn from the local community and are invited to join the Governing Body for the skills that they can offer to the Governing Body.

If you would like to find out more about being a Co-opted Governor, either at this School or another, you can either contact our Chair of Governors Mrs Elizabeth Mee or the Local Authority School Governance Unit on 020 8825 5444. The School Governance Unit will be able to tell you of Schools who are looking for Co-opted Governors.

It will be helpful when making contact to provide some brief background information, including:

- Your reasons for wishing to become a school governor.
- Whether you have any particular skills and / or knowledge which you could bring to a governing body for example
 - Financial
 - Building Works
 - Health and Safety
 - Management
 - Legal
 - Human Resources.

The Governing Body will need to establish that you are either a local resident or have an involvement in the community served by the school.

If not, it is always helpful to explain your interest in that particular part of the borough.

Local Authority Governors

Within the London Borough of Ealing, Local Authority governors are recommended by the political parties represented on the Council.

The overall number allocated to each political party is proportionate to their level of representation on the Council.

If you would like to find out more about being a Local Authority Governor please contact Alan O'Neill, Clerk to the Governing Body, Villiers High School (alan.oneill@talk21.com)

Partnership Governors

The governing body appoints partnership governors after a nomination process.

It would be normal for the governing body to request parents of registered pupils at the school, staff, community organisations and other local bodies, as the governing body thinks is appropriate, to put forward names of suitable persons to serve as partnership governors.

After a vetting / interview process the successful candidate(s) are then elected at a meeting of the full governing body.

Those not eligible to be partnership governors are parents of registered pupils at the school, persons paid to work at the school, elected members of the Local Authority and those employed by the LA in connection with education functions.