

The Role and Responsibilities of Parent Governors

As a Parent Governor you hold the unique position of having a parental viewpoint. Through your children you will have first-hand experience of the curriculum and how the school is perceived by the school community. You will be able to bring this perspective to the strategic management of the school.

A parent governor must have:

- an interest in improving the futures of all children
- a desire to make a difference
- a willingness to accept responsibility
- an ability to work in a team, ask questions, listen and learn

A Parent Governor is a representative and not a delegate of parents. As a Parent Governor you should not vote in a particular way because you have been pressed to do so by parents. Objectivity is essential. You are not there to promote the interests of your own children but all children. Parent Governors are elected by other parents and it is important to establish a rapport with the parental body that elected you, whilst continuing to maintain a strategic approach to school governance.

An effective Parent Governor will:

- offer support to the Headteacher and Leadership Team
- act as a critical friend (support and accountability)
- help to decide the priorities for improving the school
- make themselves available to parents and listen to other parents' opinions and take account of them as you contribute to Governors' decisions
- work in partnership with the Headteacher, Leadership Team and cooperatively with other Governors to raise standards and improve outcomes for all children
- prepare for meetings by reading papers beforehand
- take responsibility for their own learning and development as a Governor including attending training
- attend Full Governing Body and relevant committee meetings promptly, regularly, and for the full time
- read briefings and newsletters for Governors
- present a balanced view of issues representing different sections of the community
- promote the interests of the school in the wider community
- be loyal to the decisions made by the Governing Body
- respect the confidentiality of Governing Body affairs
- never promise to 'solve a problem' on their own
- never press their own child's case at the expense of others
- declare an interest and withdraw from any meeting where they, a partner or close relative or associate, stands to gain, or where they are so close to a matter discussed it is difficult to be impartial
- have regard to the broader responsibilities as a Governor of a public institution in regard to promoting accountability for the actions and performance of the Governing Body

Time commitment

It is vital that those considering standing for election ensure they have sufficient time to devote to their role as a Governor.

The Full Governing Body normally meets three times per year (once per term). The Governing Body also has three sub-committees, which each normally meet three times per year (once per term), and all Governors are expected to join one of these committees. These meetings normally take place on Thursdays at the school at 6.00pm.

Governors are also asked to attend other meetings of working groups or panels that may be required, for example to carry out deeper investigation into specific issues as they arise. These meetings can take place before, during or after the school day.

Each Governor is linked to at least one subject within the curriculum and will need to be able to devote time during the school day at least twice per year to meet with the relevant Curriculum Team Leader. Governors are also invited to attend school events.

We wish to encourage as many parents as possible to put themselves forward for the current vacancy, however, it is essential that you fully consider whether you are able to commit sufficient time to the school to fulfil the role. All members of the Governing Body must be in a position to attend and participate in meetings (generally at 6pm on a Thursday at the school) and take on the responsibilities the role entails.

Equality

We are very keen to ensure that members of our Governing Body represent the diversity of the school community. Nominations from parents/carers of pupils in receipt of free school meals or parents/carers of pupils with SEND are particularly welcome.