
The role of a Parent Governor

Governing bodies are an integral part of school leadership, setting the ethos of the school, driving continuous improvement, supporting, challenging and holding to account the headteacher and other members of the school leadership team by negotiating stretching targets for improvements in standards and monitoring progress towards them.

Schools need to work in partnership and collaborate and the focus of the GB is in delivering positive outcomes for children in the wider community. **Your role as a governor is strategic** and will continue to evolve to meet the needs of children in the 21st Century. **It is a voluntary one and the term of office is 4 years.**

Parent governors play an important role on our governing body and, as a group, make up a third of the total. **They are representatives, not delegates, so do not speak 'on behalf' of the parent body but do bring a parental perspective to the issues discussed**, helping maintain a direct link between governance and those most affected by decisions taken. They are elected by other parents and it is important to continue that engagement whilst maintaining a strategic approach to school governance. **Objectivity is essential and care should be taken not to promote the interests of your own children over those of all children.**

To be an effective parent governor you will:

- have an interest in all the children's futures;
- want to make a difference;
- be willing to accept responsibility;
- be able to work in a team, ask questions, listen and learn;
- help to decide the priorities for improving the school;
- make yourself available to other parents, taking account of their opinions as you contribute to governors' decisions;
- work in partnership with the headteacher, senior leadership team and other governors to raise standards and improve outcomes for all children;
- prepare for meetings by reading papers beforehand;
- take responsibility for your own learning and development as a governor including attending training;
- attend full governing body and relevant committee meetings regularly and promptly;
- read briefings and newsletters for governors;
- be loyal to the decisions made by the governing body;
- respect the confidentiality of governing body affairs;
- declare an interest and withdraw from any meeting where you, a partner or close relative or associate stands to gain, or where you 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;
- never press your own child's case at the expense of others.

You are not eligible to stand as a parent governor if you are an elected member of the local authority or are paid to work at the school for more than 500 hours in any twelve consecutive months.

All governors undergo Enhanced DBS and Section 128 checks.
