

ROLE OF A SCHOOL GOVERNOR

The Governing Body has a strategic responsibility for ensuring that the school is run effectively, acting within the framework set by legislation and the policies of the local authority and the governing body. It works with the Headteacher and senior leadership team to set priorities and targets for the school, and monitors progress against these targets.

What do governors do?

The role of a governor is strategic, to challenge and support the school leadership and avoid routine involvement in operational matters. The governing board has two core strategic functions:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

What is a parent governor?

Parent governors are in a unique position on a Governing Board. Not only do parent governors have to work in the best interests of the school, but they have to balance this with their natural desire to see the best outcomes for their own child(ren).

Parent Governors are:

- Well placed to understand the parental viewpoint and to remind the governing Board how matters being discussed affect parents.
- Individuals! How you vote on any decision is up to you.
- In a good position to advise the governing Board how to communicate effectively with parents.
- Equal in status to all other governors.

Parent Governors are not expected to gather the views of other parents and take them to the governing Board nor are expected to vote as instructed by other parents

At our school

The Full Governing Body (FGB) is made up of 16 representatives; 4 Parent Governors, 1 Local Authority Governor, 1 Staff Governor, 1 Headteacher and 9 Co-Opted Governors.

- Governors have a four year term of office.
- Governors are asked to join at least one sub-committee as well as the FGB.
- Governors are asked to take on at least one link role which may mean visiting the school up to once per term.
- Each sub-committee and FGB usually meet once per term. The proposed timetable for meetings is published in September each year.
- Meetings usually take place on Tuesdays at 5pm.
- Attend induction training for new Governors provided by the Borough

A governor is expected to:

- Get to know the school, including visiting the school occasionally during school hours and in agreement with the headteacher, gaining a good understanding of the school's strengths and weaknesses.
- Attend induction and other relevant training and development events, attend meetings, full governing body meetings and committee meetings and take on a link role.
- Read all the papers before the meeting.
- Act in the best interests of all the students of the school.
- Behave in a professional manner, as set down in the governing body's code of conduct, including acting in strict confidence.

As you become more experienced as a governor, there are other roles you may volunteer for which would increase the degree of involvement and level of responsibility e.g. chair of a committee.