

Have you ever thought about becoming a governor?

We hope the following information will help you decide whether you would like to become a governor of our school. We also hope that parents/carers who take part in parent governor elections will find the information useful too.

Many of you will already know or have found out what a school governor does. You will have spoken to existing governors and looked at various websites, including the school's own and have lots of information about 'governance.' You will also know that what governors do has changed over time.

There are different kinds of governors:

Authority Governors (AG) who are nominated by the Local Authority and appointed by The Governing Body;

Parent Governors who are elected by parents/carers and whose children attend our school;

Co-opted Governors who are appointed by The Governing Body and

Staff governors, who are employed by the school and elected by the staff.

The government has recently required all governing bodies to be reconstituted and our governing body is now made up of:

1 AG governor

The Head

5 Parent governors

1 Staff governor

6 Co-opted governors – 5 in post and currently we have one vacancy

What do governors do?

- We contribute to the work of the governing body in raising standards of achievement for all pupils.
- We act as a critical friend and provide a strategic view for the school and we ensure accountability.
- An individual governor has a responsibility, working alongside other governor colleagues, to the staff and pupils of the school, the school's wider community and where they are representatives, to their particular constituency (parents, staff, teachers etc.)

Governor Responsibilities include:

- Getting to know our school and developing our own knowledge of the educational system in which it operates. We are learners too and our learning helps us to become better governors.
- Acknowledging that the school's values are our values
- Developing the strategic plan for the school

- Determining aims, policies and priorities of the school
- Setting statutory and non-statutory targets
- Monitoring and evaluating the work of the school which we do in many ways including taking part in a Governors' Learning Walk each term. The focus of each walk is always linked to our 'School Improvement Plan' and we report to parents/carers following each walk.
- The appointment of staff and ensuring the implementation of a range of personnel procedures
- Strategic management of the budget
- Securing high levels of attendance and good standards of pupil behaviour
- Ensuring that all children in the school have access to a broad and balanced curriculum which is suitable to age, aptitude and ability and which prepares them for later life.
- Ensure the safeguarding and the health and safety of pupils and staff

Our tasks include:

- To keep up to date with what is going on.
- To attend meetings (full governing body, committees and working groups.)

The government requires much from its volunteer band of governors and yes, there is a lot of paper work and we do work between meetings. We work through two main committees, the Resources Committee which deals with all matters relating to human and financial resources and the Curriculum Committee which covers all aspects of the curriculum – what is taught, how, pupils' progress and achievements. Each committee and the full governing body meet three times a year (nine meetings in all) and other committees/working groups meet when required.

- To work as a member of a team
- To speak, act and vote in the best interests of the school
- To respect all governing body decisions and to support them in public
- To act within the framework of the policies of the governing body and legal requirements
- To commit to training and development opportunities

School governor code of conduct:

We adhere to these key principles:

- To act in the best interests of the school – this may require balancing short and long term issues, school and community issues etc.
- To work as a member of a team at all times and be loyal to collective decisions made by the governing body.
- To recognise that all governors have the same rights and responsibilities unless particular responsibilities are conferred on them by the full governing body

- To understand that no governor can act alone except in exceptional circumstances prescribed in the regulations – the power of the governing body rests in it acting as a single body.

And Governors must:

- Respect confidentiality
- Listen to and respect the views of others
- Express their own views clearly and succinctly
- Take their fair share of work/positions of responsibility
- Know, understand and work within the prescribed regulatory framework and report any evidence of fraud, corruption or misconduct to an appropriate person or authority.

And should:

- Prepare for meetings by reading papers beforehand
- Take responsibility for their own learning and development as a governor including attending training
- Attend meetings promptly, regularly and for the full time.

We hope parents/carers will take an active part in parent governor elections. Being a governor is a very rewarding experience. Over time in our village, governors have worked with the head and her professional team to ensure that our school provides the very best educational opportunities for our children. You can help make a difference and join a governing body which is active, supportive of its members and an effective critical friend.

The governing body can now ask you to consider certain skills when participating in an election. Having a range of skills available is very important to us. At present we have governors from business, banking, health and social care, the law and education. Each governor brings to the table their own personal and professional experience and we have to take into account succession planning. At the time of an election we will ask you to consider certain skills/professional expertise. In our search for suitable co-opted governors we will also make it clear which skills/expertise we are looking for.

If you join us in whatever 'governor role' you will be offered a governor mentor/buddy and opportunities to gain further expertise through training, both in-house and on training courses which are provided for governors. You will also have access to information provided by the National Governors' Association.

I know you will take time to speak to governors you know. They will be able to give you lots of information and if you wish to speak to any other governor, drop a note into the governors' box in school and we will be in touch.

Pat Downing
Chair of Governors