

Becoming a School Governor

Schools are run by a Board of Governors working with the Executive Headteacher and Head of School to secure the delivery of education in the school suitable to the needs, ages and abilities of the pupils. Becoming a governor is a way of contributing to your local school and learning new skills.

Who can become a school governor?

All types of people can become school governors, with the exception of anyone disqualified on the basis of child protection requirements, bankruptcy restrictions or recent criminal convictions. No special qualifications are required, but you must be 18 years of age or over.

Enthusiasm, commitment, an interest in education and teamwork are important qualities. Schools particularly welcome new governors who have transferable skills developed at work, such as business, finance or human resource skills.

What do school governors do?

The role of the Board of Governors is to manage the school with a view to providing the best possible education and educational opportunities for all of the pupils.

This involves:

- setting the school's vision and aims
- establishing and maintaining the school's ethos
- setting the school's plans and policies
- monitoring and evaluating school performance
- promoting self-evaluation to sustain school improvement
- providing support and challenge to the school leadership team
- monitoring school procedures and being accountable to Ofsted
- supporting the school to achieve.

A governor is a critical friend to the school, with the purpose of supporting the school to provide the best outcomes for all children.

How often do the governors meet?

Attendance at meetings is vital. The full Board of Governors meet between 4 and 6 times a year, usually on a Thursday evening between 6-8pm. In addition to the Governing Body meetings there are two sub committees which meet at least termly throughout the year, usually during the school day. Governors are expected to join at least one of the committees. The Standards Committee focus on the provision and curriculum for children. The Buildings, Staffing & Finance Committee is responsible for Finance, Human Resources, staffing and buildings. All Governors are also expected to spend time in school throughout the year evaluating the work of the school.