



Become a Parent Governor Voluntary Role

Parent Governors play a vital role on our Local Governing Bodies. This is an important and unique opportunity to have a parental viewpoint of the school.

Through the children, our Parent Governors have first-hand experience of the delivery of the curriculum and how the school is perceived. This enables our Parent Governors to bring a very different perspective to the strategic leadership of the school.



It is important for Parent Governors to establish a rapport with the parental body which they represent, whilst maintaining a strategic approach to school governance. Although being available to advise parents on appropriate routes of action is a very important aspect of the role, **it is vital that Parent Governors do not personally become involved in individual concerns.** Apart from the possibility of this jeopardising appropriate complaints and appeals procedures, no Governor has the authority to act individually on behalf of the school.

What experience do you need?

None!



You will receive a formal induction and ongoing support throughout your Governor role.

Although this is a very delicate role, there is ample support and training available and your Clerk will be there to help and guide you.

Effective Parent Governors will find working alongside the other members of the Governing Body both interesting and rewarding in that their efforts will ensure that the work of the Governing Body fulfils its duties to all children.

Remember this is a voluntary role which means there is no payment for this.



Paperwork

There is a certain amount of initial paperwork that ALL Governors have to complete, but your Clerk will make this as painless as possible! Most paperwork is done at the start of the academic year or at the point you join the Governing Body.



Training

We do expect our Governors to undertake training including:

Mandatory

- **Induction** – this is currently offered via 3 short Loom Videos which must be viewed before your first official meeting. The videos are short and can be viewed at any time. Your induction will be followed up with a call from your Clerk to check things are all ok and answer any questions or queries you may have.
- **Safeguarding** – this will be done through the school's normal safeguarding training as part of their INSET or via SSS Learning but should include safeguarding, Prevent, FGM, CSE.
- **GDPR** – again done through school or SSS Learning.

Optional

- Safer Recruitment – for those who might be on senior leadership interview panels.
- Academy Finance – understanding how the school's finances are allocated and spent.
- SEND – the Role of the SEND Governor
- Health & Safety – the Role of the H&S Governor.
- Governor Panels.

Parent Governors:

- ✓ Are representative parents rather than representatives of parents.
- ✓ Make themselves known to the parent body.
- ✓ Take responsibility for their own learning and development as a Governor including attending Governor training.
- ✓ Listen impartially to concerns raised by parents.
- ✓ Guide parents regarding appropriate lines of action and procedures.
- ✓ Promote the interests of the school in the wider community.
- ✓ Declare an interest and withdraw from any meeting where you, a partner or close relative stands to gain, or where you are so close to a matter discussed it is difficult to be impartial.

Parent Governors are not there to promote the interests of their own children but all children.

Parent Governors are appointed (or elected by other parents).

Who can be a Parent Governor?

Any parent who has a child at the school. Let the Headteacher know you are interested in becoming a Parent Governor and they will put you in touch with the Clerk who will tell you what to do next.



Time Commitment

- **Meetings** – 6 per academic year, usually between 1-2 hours.
- **Monitoring visits** – 1 per term, usually between 1-2 hours.
- **Training** – this is flexible but as a minimum we would expect the equivalent of 2-4 hours per term.
- **Reading and preparing for meetings** – approx. 1-2 hours per meeting.

Parent Governors can undertake a monitoring visit on any area they would like to know more about linked to either a statutory duty or school priority.

As with any role, there will be a certain amount of reading in preparation for meetings and we try to ensure that you get the paperwork well in advance of the meetings to help you prepare and plan for any questions that you might want to ask.



Achieving The Right Balance

Achieving a balance between being an impartial representative parent and the often emotional issues relating to individual children's education, can sometimes be very difficult. Some practical ways to achieve this balance include:

- Make yourself available to parents.
- Never press your own child's case at the expense of others.
- Never promise to 'solve a problem' on your own.
- Be wary of bringing an individual's issue to meetings without following the agreed procedures.
- Abide by the agreed protocol regarding agenda items and Any Other Business (AOB).
- Keep yourself aware of parental view and concerns.
- Play an active part in Governor meetings.

To find out more, speak to your school:
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