



Are you thinking about becoming a school governor?

What does the role entail?

The role of a governor is to hold the Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team to account. They should seek evidence that policies and procedures are effectively implemented to ensure the targeted outcomes for students are being achieved and exceeded. We also monitor improvement strategies to ensure they are delivering good outcomes to give pupils the best education and support possible. Day to day operations of the school are the Head's role, not for the governors to discuss.

We do this in five ways: -

- Attending Local Governing Body (LGB) meetings every term (6) which are generally in the evening (6-8pm) but this is dependent on the governing body. It is sometimes necessary to have an extraordinary meeting to address an issue or an initiative. During meetings data is scrutinised and we ask questions to challenge and further our understanding. (There is never a silly question, every question is encouraged)
- Attending regular training sessions which helps us to carry out our role effectively and appropriately. Some training is **mandatory** (i.e. Governor induction, Prevent Training & Safeguarding) and some training is linked to our area of responsibility. Training can be accessed on-line or by reading best practice articles.
- We are all linked to a subject or operation, we then become the named link governor for that area. (We try to deploy governors to an area they have knowledge-skills of or an interest in.) We meet with the leader for our area to ask questions and see evidence of process, outcomes or improvement. We then produce a brief report which is shared with the LGB. There is a governor visit policy and proformas which will guide you through the process, but the Chair will always be available to guide governors. Ideally you will visit your link area at least 3 times a year. (You may feel you want to visit more often if you have the capacity and the Head is agreeable)
- We promote and represent the school in a positive light in the community. We are ambassadors!
- We occasionally sit on interview and appeal panels i.e. for recruitment, complaints, staff issues and pupil exclusions. Governors will be guided through the process and given training where appropriate.

Types of Governors:

- Parent Governors:
 - Parent governors are there to offer a perspective from the parent community on the board. Parent governors have the same responsibilities as other types of governor.
- Community/Co-Opted Governors
 - Members of the local community that do not have to have a connection to the school. These governors have the skills and experience required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school. They will act in the best interests of the school and the wider community.
- Foundation Governors
 - Foundation governors are appointed to the governing boards of voluntary controlled and voluntary aided schools to preserve the religious character of the school.
- Director Appointed Governors
 - They have the skills and experience required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school and their appointment will be agreed by the Trust board
- Staff Governors
 - A staff governor is elected as a representative staff member on the board. Their role is to bring a staff perspective to discussions held by the governing board.



What Qualifications & Skills do I need?

Formal qualifications are not essential. However, you will need to be able to prepare reports and scrutinise data. (Training will be given to support you with this)

Members of the governing body are asked to complete a skills analysis once a year to establish any skill gaps within the LGB. Before you are officially appointed you will be asked to complete an online skills analysis. We never expect any governor to have all the skills listed but we endeavour to have as many of the skills required covered as a team.

All Governors **must** undergo an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check. You will not be able to start your role until your clearance has been confirmed. This is a relatively short process once all the necessary ID has been received.

It is essential that governors have access to the internet and email. You will be required to have a MSN Partnership email to ensure confidential information is kept safe and robust. Personal emails must not be used.

Boundaries and Protocols.

Governors must always remain impartial. i.e. If a parent governor has a complaint to raise about their child they must not bring it to the LGB meeting, they must follow the school complaints procedure. This is essential to ensure any complaints can be given a fair hearing. Equally they must not offer to raise a fellow parent's complaint, they should be directed to the complaints procedure.

Governors will be asked to declare any business interests they may have in the school.

Governors must not push their own agenda or see the governing body as a gateway to promote their external affairs.

What do I get out of it?

The role is both rewarding and challenging but never boring. It does require a certain amount of commitment to carry it out effectively, but you are repaid by learning new skills which you can transfer to any work/voluntary situation, while supporting the preparation of students to enter the world of further education or employment.

If you would like to apply to become a governor please use this form: <https://forms.gle/8nhPpqFYXFbhpX5d8>

For more information please contact Emily Walker, Governance Clerk ewalker@msnpartnership.com

[Click here for a list of local governing bodies.](#)