

School governors are people just like you...find out what's involved:

Thinking of becoming a School Governor? If you are aged 18 or over and can say 'yes I can offer the following' then why not?

An interest in education

Time, energy and enthusiasm

Common sense

A desire to be involved

A willingness to accept responsibility

The ability to work in a team

You'll notice there's no requirement for educational expertise or formal qualifications. Neither do you have to be a parent or have a child at the school. Governing bodies need to be representative of the diversity in our schools and communities.

What do governors do?

Governors are crucial to the running of a school. The different perspectives they can bring are invaluable to the head teacher, staff and children.

Governors work with the school to promote continuous improvement. They make decisions on the overall direction of the school and work with the head teacher to set policies, targets, development plans and more.

Governors decide how to make the best use of the school budget for the benefit of the children's education. They make sure that as a governing body they themselves are equipped to deal with the changing face of education.

Governors work as a team, deciding on things jointly and sharing responsibilities for the decisions they make.

And the benefits of being a governor?

Governance is an excellent form of volunteering and can be a really rewarding and stimulating experience. Imagine having a very real part to play in ensuring the children at your school get the best possible education. Think of the satisfaction in raising standards and achieving value for money for the school.

Then there are the new skills you'll have the opportunity of developing: team work, financial and strategic planning, recruitment and interviewing skills. And that's just for starters.

Who sits on a governing body?

Foundation Governors - Who are appointed by the Trust or Diocese that partners the school

Parent Governors - Who have a child in the school

Staff Governors - Who are members of the teaching/support staff and head teacher

Local Education Authority Governors - Who are appointed by the council

Community Governors - Who are chosen and appointed by the rest of the governors

What is involved in being a governor?

Most governing bodies meet once a term (six times a year), usually in the late afternoon or evenings.

You will also join a committee responsible for a particular area of work.

You will have the satisfaction of getting involved in school life and visiting the classrooms to see the governing body's decisions and policies put into practice.

There will also be the opportunity to attend professional training sessions to help you in your role.

Many employers encourage their staff to become governors and allow time off with pay, although this is not a legal requirement.

Being a governor is usually a four-year position. But don't feel you have to stop there! If you are eligible, you could seek re-appointment or re-election for further terms of office.

What support is available to help governors in their role?

- Induction training – to welcome and introduce you to the role of a governor.
- An ongoing programme of training for all governors throughout the year.
- A newsletter three times a year to keep you up to date with developments.
- Local and national helplines, websites and a forum dedicated to supporting school governors.
- Support and guidance from other members of your own team of governors.