

What does our Governing Body Look Like?

Our full governing body is made up of 13 people which includes the headteacher, one member of staff, two parent governors, eight co-opted governors and one local authority governor. We have four sub committees: Teaching & Achievement, Finance & Facilities, Human Resources and Headteacher performance. There are also governors with specific interest in Maths, English and Special Educational Needs which allows closer knowledge and understanding of the developments for that subject.

I am really busy, what would the time commitment be?

This is a voluntary position so meetings are planned as much as possible to prevent conflict with work or family life, however it cannot be denied that to be an effective governor, you will need to allocate time to be truly effective.

The full governing body meets twice every term, normally at 5.30pm. Each sub committee meets on average three times per year; these meetings are normally during the school day. Two formal governor visits to the school take place each term to allow the governing body to have a good understanding of the school, these are link to the key performance objectives for the year; governors nominate themselves for these visits. Governors are also involved in the recruitment of senior members of staff as vacancies arise. From time to time working parties are formed to develop proposals on behalf of the Governing Body.

As well as attending meetings, there is also a need to read papers in readiness for these meetings and to keep up to date with developments within education.

What does the school get out of parents being governors?

The Governing Body system is successful because all members come from different backgrounds and bring a wide selection of skills and views to the body. Parent governors are an extremely valuable part of the Governing Body. Parents have an obvious keen interest in the success of their child's school and a useful insight into the effectiveness of school policy and procedures through their own and their child's experience.

Why you might want to become a Parent Governor

There are many differing reasons why parents want to be involved, from "wanting to give something back" to "wanting to get more involved in your child's school". Others want to gain a better understanding of how schools are run and how the education system works.

What training and support will I receive in order to fulfil my role?

If you wish, you will be assigned a mentor from our existing Governing Body who will support you in becoming an effective governor quickly. The Local Education Authority organise general training courses for all new governors. Other training courses, on line training and conferences are then available dependent upon the needs of the governing body and your own areas of interest. We are part of the Schools NorthEast Forum which provides a wealth of support and training.

What do some of our current parent governors think of the role?

Here are some quotes from current and past parent governors to give you a flavour of why they wanted to be involved...

"Being a parent governor is not a box ticking exercise. I feel fully involved in setting the future direction of my child's school; from suggesting enrichment ideas to identifying where the focus should be for the next two years."

"Judging the year 8 cooking challenges is definitely one of the perks of the job!"

"We have 4 sub-committees for HR, Finance & Facilities, Teaching & Learning and Headteacher performance; this has allowed me to fit my interests and skills with the needs of the Governing Body"

"The quality of my child's education is really important to me, so in these challenging times I want to do my bit to help them be successful"

"I have been a parent governor whilst 3 of my children have been at this school. During that time, I have been involved in almost every aspect of school life, from recruiting the Headteacher and being questioned by Ofsted Inspectors to helping choose the colour of the paintwork! It is challenging, interesting and rewarding and has given me a unique insight into the way my children are educated."

"I have learnt a lot about our country's education system and how best to support and challenge our teachers"

"I enjoy the personal satisfaction and sense of achievement of working to improve the school"