

## **Have you ever thought about becoming a governor?**

**We hope the following information will help you decide whether you would like to become a governor of our school, whether elected or appointed.**

Many of you will already know or have found out what a school governor does. You will have spoken to existing governors and looked at various websites, including the school's own and have lots of information about 'governance.' You will also know that what governors do has changed over time.

### **There are different kinds of governors in a LA maintained school**

**Local authority governors (LA):** nominated by the Local Authority and appointed by the governing body  
**Parent Governors:** parents and carers and are elected by parents/carers and whose children attend our school

**Co-opted Governors:** appointed by the governing body on the basis of the skills they can bring

**Staff governors:** employed by the school and elected by the staff

**The headteacher:** ex officio governor

### **Our governing body constitution is 14 governors which includes**

- The headteacher
- 5 parent governors
- 1 staff governor
- 6 co-opted governors
- 1 LA governor

### **What do governors do?**

- We contribute to and monitor the work of the school in raising standards of achievement for all pupils.
- We act as a critical friend and provide a strategic view for the school and ensure accountability.
- All governors have responsibilities, working alongside other governor colleagues, to the staff and pupils of the school, the parent body and the school's wider community

### **Governor Responsibilities include:**

- Getting to know our school and developing our own knowledge of the educational system in which it operates. We are learners too and our learning helps us to become better governors.
- Acknowledging that the school's values are our values
- Developing the strategic plan for the school
- Determining aims, policies and priorities of the school
- Setting statutory and non-statutory targets
- Monitoring and evaluating the work of the school which we do in many ways including taking part in a Governors' Learning Walk each term. The focus of each walk is always linked to our 'School Improvement Plan'

- The appointment of the head and senior staff and ensuring the implementation of a range of personnel procedures
- Strategic management of the budget
- Working with the school to secure high levels of attendance and good standards of pupil behaviour
- Ensuring that all children in the school have access to a broad and balanced curriculum which is suitable to age, aptitude and ability and which prepares them for later life
- Ensure the safeguarding and the health and safety of pupils and staff

**Our tasks include:**

- To keep up to date with what is going on
- To attend all relevant meetings

*The government requires much from its volunteer band of governors and yes, there is a lot of paper work and we do work between meetings. We operate a 'flat' structure of governance with just one committee, the Pay and Performance Committee. The full governing body meets 8 times a year and focus working groups are set up and meet when required.*

- To work as a member of a team
- To always speak, act and vote in the best interests of the school
- To respect all governing body decisions and to support them in public
- To act within the framework of the policies of the governing body and legal requirements
- To commit to training and development opportunities

**School governor code of conduct:** We adhere to these key principles:

- To act in the best interests of the school – this may require balancing short and long term issues, school and community issues etc.
- To work as a member of a team at all times and be loyal to collective decisions made by the governing body.
- To recognise that all governors have the same rights and responsibilities unless particular responsibilities are delegated to them by the full governing body
- To understand that no governor can act alone except in exceptional circumstances prescribed in the regulations – the power of the governing body rests in it acting as a single body.

**And governors must:**

- Respect confidentiality
- Listen to and respect the views of others
- Express their own views clearly and succinctly
- Take their fair share of work/positions of responsibility
- Know, understand and work within the prescribed regulatory framework and report any evidence of fraud, corruption or misconduct to an appropriate person or authority.

**And should:**

- Prepare for meetings by reading papers beforehand

- Take responsibility for their own learning and development as a governor including attending training
- Attend meetings promptly, regularly and for the full time.

We hope parents/carers will take an active part in parent governor elections. Being a governor is a very rewarding experience. Over time in our village, governors have worked with the head and her professional team to ensure that our school provides the very best educational opportunities for our children. You can help make a difference and join a governing body which is active, supportive of its members and an effective critical friend.

Having a range of skills and a diverse board is very important to us. At present we have governors from business, banking, health and social care, the law and education. Each governor brings to the table their own personal and professional experience and we have to take into account succession planning. In our search for suitable co-opted governors we will make it clear which skills/expertise we are looking for.

If you join us in whatever 'governor role' you will be offered a governor mentor/buddy and opportunities to gain further expertise through training, both in-house and on training courses which are provided for governors. You will also have access to information and training provided by the National Governance Association (NGA) and the Key for School Governors

We know you will take time to speak to governors you know. They will be able to give you lots of information. If you wish to speak to a governor about what the role entails, please drop a note into the school office and we will be in touch.

Greg Guilford  
**Co-Chair of Governors**

John Joy  
**Co-Chair of Governors**