

WHAT IS INVOLVED?

To be a successful governor, you need commitment, with the time and desire to get involved in the school. You will be involved in making strategic decisions, setting priorities and monitoring progress. You will be expected to:

- Attend regular meetings
- Read relevant documentation
- Get to know the school through visits, attending events, meeting staff & children
- Ask questions
- Attend training

"Being a Parent Governor is a very rewarding way to help in my children's school, learning new skills and taking part in the development of children's education and future. It's a privilege!"
School Governor

For more details or for an informal chat about becoming a governor, please contact Vicky Early the head teacher or Yasmin Gregory the Chair of Governor head@harlowbury.essex.sch.uk or y.gregory@harlowbury.essex.sch.uk



MAIN CATEGORIES OF GOVERNOR

There are a number of categories of governor, though not all are on every governing body. Most governors serve for a period of four years.

Parent Governors are elected by and from the parents and carers of students at a school.

Staff Governors are elected by and from teachers and staff at a school.

Co-opted Governors (sometimes referred to as Community Governors). These volunteers don't have to have a connection to the school, religion, or the local authority. Co-opted governors, in the opinion of the governing board, have the skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school.

Associate Governors if a school has no governor vacancies but is in need of someone with specific skills, this may be a helpful option. Similarly, if a governor is retiring, a governing board may decide to recruit an associate to bridge the gap. Often, schools will consider associate members first when any vacancies arise on the full governing board. Associate members have no voting rights on the full governing board but may vote on any committees to which they have been appointed.



Harlowbury Primary School

SCHOOLS NEED GOVERNORS



Would you like to be a part of the largest volunteer group in the country, working with others to provide the best for children and young people?



"Believe, Succeed, Inspire"

WHO CAN BECOME A SCHOOL GOVERNOR?

- You do not need to be an expert in education, have children or any specific qualifications. Extensive training is available to equip you for the role, held locally and at convenient times.
- You do need enthusiasm, commitment, spare time, an interest in the future of children and young people, and to be over 18 years of age.
- Governing bodies need a balance of expertise, experience, knowledge, and skills. Are you a good communicator? Can you negotiate, influence, work as part of a team? Have you experience within your local community or with parents?
- You need to be able to listen, learn, challenge constructively and question.

Every school has a governing body of volunteers who contribute their skills, energy, and knowledge to ensure that the next generation gets the best from school. In return they have the opportunity to learn new skills and to be involved in making a difference.

THE REWARDS OF BEING A SCHOOL GOVERNOR

Governors bring a wide range of experience and interests from many walks of life, but they all have one thing in common – the desire to make a difference to the lives of children and young people. Rewards include:

- Knowing that your efforts could help to shape a better future.
- Developing new skills and strengthening existing ones.
- Helping to create a 21st century school, working in partnership with other schools and the wider community.
- Working as part of a team, supported by colleagues, mixing with people from a range of backgrounds.
- Satisfaction from giving something back to the community by promoting the education, safety, and well-being of students.



THE ROLE OF THE GOVERNING BODY

A school's governing body plays a vital part in raising educational standards and outcomes by:

- Working with the head teacher to create a safe environment in which students can learn, setting the vision, policies, and priorities of the school.
- Challenging and supporting the school.
- Ensuring students' moral, social, spiritual, and cultural development.
- Planning for the longer-term future, ensuring money is spent wisely.
- Making sure the curriculum meets all pupils' needs and that a wide range of extended services is accessible.
- Involvement in appointing staff, including the head teacher.
- Acting as a link between the local community and the school. Governing bodies aim to reflect our diverse community. We are keen to increase the number of governors from minority ethnic background.