

Parent Governor FAQs

Why should I consider becoming a Parent Governor?

Being a school governor is both a privileged position and a meaningful responsibility. It's one of the most effective ways to contribute to your community, support young people's futures, and grow as a person. Here's what makes it so special:

- Governors shape the quality of education by helping set the school's vision, ethos, and long-term strategy. Your decisions can influence the success of hundreds of students. Governors ensure that the headteacher and leadership team are held to account for the school's performance, safeguarding students' best interests. While not involved in daily operations, governors influence policies and strategic decisions that shape the long-term health of the school.
- Being a governor hones valuable skills: strategic thinking, financial oversight, leadership, and data analysis. These are transferable to many other areas of life and work.
- It's a way to give back—especially meaningful if you live locally or have children in the school. You help improve lives, not just outcomes.
- You work with passionate people—headteachers, staff, other governors—and gain a deeper understanding of how schools run.

Who Can Be a Parent Governor?

Any person who has responsibility for a student on the school roll at the time of the election.

What Qualifications Do I Need?

Parent governors do not need formal qualifications and need not be experts in the field of education. What they do need is an interest in the school and in the welfare of our children and the time and willingness to get involved. The skills you have can be very useful to the governing body.

How Much Time Does It Take?

The full governing body (FGB) meets 4 times per year. Meetings take approximately two hours. Governors also attend a committee meeting approx. once a term and usually at least one monitoring visit during the school day per term. All governors are expected to undertake initial induction training and participate in on-going governor development (1-2 evening training courses per year). Our FGB is in person and committees are online/remote.

How Long Is The Term Of Office?

You normally hold office for four years even if your child leaves the school during this time. However you can resign from the governing body at any time.

What does a Parent Governor do?

Parent governors play a vital role on Governing Boards, holding the unique position of having a parental viewpoint of the school. Through their children, they have a first-hand experience of the delivery of the curriculum and how the school is perceived by parents and the local community.

It is important for parent governors to maintain a strategic approach to school governance whilst establishing a rapport with the parental body. This can be a delicate role and a parent governor has to be particularly careful



regarding issues of confidentiality. Although being available to advise parents on appropriate routes of action is important, it is essential that parent governors do not become personally involved in individual concerns. This could jeopardise the Complaints and Appeals procedures and no governor has the authority to act individually on behalf of the Governing Board. Parent governors have to be sensitive to when they are acting as a Parent and when they are acting as a governor and be able to act upon concerns as a parent without compromising their role as a governor.

Parent governors are:

- Able to work in partnership with the Headteacher, Senior Leadership team and other governors to raise standards and improve outcomes for all children.
- Expected to act in accordance with the Code of Conduct and be aware of conflicts of interest.
- Representative of parents (not a representative for parents).
- Able to guide parents regarding appropriate lines of action and procedures.
- Well placed to present a balanced view of issues.
- Equal in status to all other governors.

Parent governors are not:

- Expected to gather the views of other parents and take them to the Governing Board.
- Simply expected to represent the interests of parents.
- Expected to vote as instructed by other parents.
- A link between parents and the Governing Board.
- Able to take up individual complaints.
- There to represent the interests of their own children.

Training for New Governors

New governors receive induction training explaining the role and responsibilities of governors. Your fellow governors will also support you in your new role.

Nomination Process If you would like to be nominated as a Parent Governor please complete the nomination form attached and read and sign the Declaration of Eligibility which is on the back of the nomination form. If you have any queries regarding the Nomination Form or want more information please contact the School Office.

Is the role paid and/or is there reimbursement for expenses?

The role of governor is an unpaid, voluntary role. Unfortunately schools are not in a financial position to be able to reimburse governors for any expenses.