



# Middleton Parish Church School

Parent Governor Information



## **The core functions of the Governing Board are:**

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the effective and efficient performance.
- Overseeing financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent



## What is a Parent Governor?

The definition of a parent governor, is a person who is elected as a member of the Governing Board of the school, by parents of registered pupils at the school and who is a parent at the time of their election. Governors come from all walks of life and bring a rich variety of skills and experience to schools. What Governors at Middleton Parish have in common, is a passion for education and a commitment to furthering the life chances of all of the young people we serve.

### **Parents include:**

The parent of a registered pupil at the school.

An individual who had or has had parental responsibility for, or cares or has cared for, a child or young person under the age of 19.

A person is disqualified from serving for election (or appointment) as a parent governor if s/he is:

An elected member of the Local Authority; or

Paid to work at the school for more than 500 hours in any consecutive twelve month period (at the time of the election or appointment).



# 1. Contribute to the strategic discussions at governing board meetings which determine:

- the vision and ethos of the school;
- clear and ambitious strategic priorities and targets for the school;
- that all children, including those with special educational needs, have access to a broad and balanced curriculum;
- the school's budget, including the expenditure of the pupil premium allocation;
- the school's staffing structure and key staffing policies;
- the principles to be used by school leaders to set other school policies.

## 2. Hold executive leaders to account by monitoring the school's performance; this includes:



- agreeing the outcomes from the school's self-evaluation and ensuring they are used to inform the priorities in the school development plan;
- considering all relevant data and feedback provided on request by school leaders and external sources on all aspects of school performance;
- asking challenging questions of school leaders;
- ensuring senior leaders have arranged for the required audits to be carried out and receiving the results of those audits;
- ensuring senior leaders have developed the required policies and procedures and the school is operating effectively according to those policies;
- acting as a link governor on a specific issue, making relevant enquiries of the relevant staff, and reporting to the governing board on the progress on the relevant school priority;
- listening to and reporting to the school's stakeholders: pupils, parents, staff, and the wider community, including local employers.



3. Ensure the school staff have the resources and support they require to do their jobs well, including the necessary expertise on business management, external advice where necessary, effective appraisal and CPD (Continuing Professional Development), and suitable premises and that the way in which those resources are used has impact.



#### 4. When required, serve on panels of governors to:

- appoint the headteacher and other senior leaders
- appraise the headteacher;
- set the headteacher's pay and agree the pay recommendations for other staff;
- hear the second stage of staff grievances and disciplinary matters;
- hear appeals about pupil Exclusions.

The role of a governor is largely a thinking and questioning role, not a doing role.

# A governor does **NOT**:



1. write school policies
2. undertake audits of any sort – whether financial or health & safety – even if the governor has the relevant professional experience;
3. spend much time with the pupils of the school – if you want to work directly with children, there are many other voluntary valuable roles within the school;
4. fundraise – this is the role of the PTA – the governing board should consider income streams and the potential for income generation, but not carry out fundraising tasks;
5. undertake classroom observations to make judgements on the quality of teaching – the governing board monitors the quality of teaching in the school by requiring data from the senior staff and from external sources;
6. do the job of the school staff; if there is not enough capacity within the paid staff team to carry out the necessary tasks, the governing board need to consider and rectify this.





In order to perform this role well, a governor is expected to:

- get to know the school, including visiting the school occasionally during school hours and in agreement with the headteacher, and gaining a good understanding of the school's strengths and weaknesses;
- attend induction training and regular relevant training and development events, attend meetings (full governing board meetings approx 6 per year) and read all the papers before the meeting;
- act in the best interests of all the pupils of the school behave in a professional manner, as set down in the governing board's code of conduct, including **acting in strict confidence**.