



## Becoming a Governor – Information Sheet

**School governors are people who want to make a positive contribution to children's education.**

Governors are one of the largest volunteer forces in the country and have an important part to play in raising school standards. The role of a governing body is essential to the effectiveness of a school. Time and time again Ofsted (the national inspection body for schools) has noted that the most effective schools demonstrate effective leadership and management, which includes that of the governing body.

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

School governors provide strategic leadership and accountability in schools. The governing body supports the head and staff by positively promoting the work of the school, celebrating its achievements, and working to ensure the best outcomes for the pupils. Governors appoint the head teacher and are involved in the appointment of other staff. In some schools the site is owned by the governing body. Governors hold the main responsibility for finance in schools, and ask questions to check the performance of the school. Working with the head teacher, governors make the tough decisions about balancing resources.

Each individual governor is a member of a governing body, which is established in law as a corporate body. Individual governors do not act independently of the rest of the governing body. Decisions are the joint responsibility of the governing body. As long as they act within the law, governors are protected from any financial liability for the decisions they take.

### **Who can become a governor?**

Almost anyone over 18 years of age can become a governor. There are no particular qualifications, other than a willingness to give time to the role and a capacity for working with other people.

### **What will I get out of being a school governor?**

- The knowledge that you have played a part in improving children's education and supported the school's staff.
- A chance to develop new skills and to practice existing ones, such as chairing meetings, speaking in groups, asking questions, making suggestions and appointing staff.
- A chance to help other members of the team, perhaps because they are new, are not used to committee work or need help in learning about the school and about school governance.

### **What can you offer?**

- Enthusiasm
- Commitment
- Knowledge
- Experience
- Individual perspective

### **What makes a good school governor?**

- You care about improving children's educational attainment
- You want to contribute to the local community
- You want to be part of the team
- You are willing to ask questions
- You are open to ideas and willing to learn
- You accept you might need training

### **Different Categories of Schools and Governors:**

There are different types of school with different categories of governor. The different categories of governor are: parent, staff, foundation, local authority (LA) or co-opted.

As Old Hutton CE School is a Voluntary Controlled Church of England School, with a church foundation, this means that all our governors have also got the special role of being governors of a church school and therefore should be in sympathy with our Christian ethos.

**For more information about how to become a governor, please contact school.**