



Joining The White Horse Federation Become a Parent Governor



Our Governors are proud to be part of The White Horse Federation Multi-Academy Trust

Welcome to The White Horse Federation

The White Horse Federation is a not-for-profit Multi-Academy Trust that supports and sponsors many Primary, Secondary, and Special Schools across Wiltshire, Swindon, Oxfordshire, and Berkshire.

Our shared vision for excellence through partnership means we are also committed to upholding and celebrating the best of what makes a school great - in other words, the qualities and characteristics that shape the type of school every member of our Trust would be proud to send their own children to.

The White Horse Federation combines a relentless drive for academic excellence with a shared moral purpose and shared values, while ensuring that fun and happiness are a key attribute of each of our schools. We genuinely believe that partnership - working with our schools, pupils and their parents, and the wider community - helps to create the best possible outcomes for all children. The White Horse Federation empowers its colleagues through support, training, and career opportunities so our schools can recruit, develop, and retain outstanding staff who are leaders in their field. That way, we're able to ensure that every student achieves their full potential, regardless of their background, culture, heritage, or ability.

A Parent Governor

We are seeking a person who fits the following description:

- Currently has a child or children in our school
- Has an open and enquiring mind
- Shows a willingness to listen and make informed judgements
- Is able to work well with others
- Is interested in education generally and our school in particular
- Has a desire to play a part in improving our school
- Is willing to give up to 15 hours per term to attend meetings and training

If you match the above description, you could be the very person to become a parent governor. Everyone has something to offer and we want people from as many backgrounds and interests as possible.

In return we can offer:

- An insight into the wider perspective of the school through long-term planning.
- A chance to develop skills in strategic leadership.
- Training to develop an understanding of specific school leadership issues.
- A sense of achievement in making a difference to our school.
- The pleasure of seeing children thrive and become successful learners.
- The opportunity to work with our team of Trustees, Governors and staff in improving our school.



The Role

The role of the Local Governance Committee (LGC) of our school:

- The Local Governance Committee is a committee of the Board of Trustees and has an assurance role, to support the Trustees, in providing support and challenge to the school's leadership.
- Supporting the Executive Leaders and Headteacher in their monitoring role within the context of the school's key performance indicators.
- Supporting the Executive Leaders in their role regarding duty of care for Headteachers.
- Supporting the Headteachers in their role regarding duty of care for staff.
- Governors understand and support the strategic planning undertaken by the Headteacher, SLT and the executive of TWHF, by adding strength and integrity to evidence cited by the leadership team through; questioning, visiting and seeing for yourself and considering triangulated evidence.
- Collaborating with governors, school leadership teams from other TWHF schools along with Trustees and Executive Leaders in considering impact of decisions.
- Keeping abreast with national and local 'landscapes' affecting schools.



Expectations



Governors link to the community

Governors are the link between the school and the community and representatives of all those with an interest in the well-being and reputation of the school are needed.



Valued time

We are all volunteers, working in our own time, and we are all busy people. However, we feel that we gain much in personal development as well as a feeling of satisfaction that we have played an important part in improving education in the local community.



Teamwork

We work together as a team, with a collective responsibility.



Diversity and Inclusion

Local Governance Committees seek individuals from as many different backgrounds as possible, to fully reflect the community, the school serves. Everyone has something to offer. Specific training (free) is available to develop an understanding of strategic school improvement.



Responsibilities

Representing parents

As a parent governor you will be a governor in your own right, with the same responsibilities as everyone else, to work together as part of the Local Governance Committee for the good of the school.

As a parent governor you do not have to vote in a particular way because you have been pressed to do so by parents. Objectivity, however, is essential. You are not there to promote the interests of your own children, but all children.

Sometimes a parent governor may be approached with a concern. Parent governors are not there to provide an alternative route to addressing individual parental concerns, although if you do become aware of more widespread disquiet about the School's policy and practice then you should alert the Headteacher and Chair.

Making a Difference

Governors can make a real difference to the performance of the school and have a real part to play in making the school successful.

As an effective parent governor you:

- Support, challenge and monitor the priorities which are outlined in the School Development Plan
- Work in partnership with the headteacher, school's senior leadership team and cooperatively with other governors, to raise standards and improve outcomes for all children.
- Prepare for meetings by reading papers beforehand.
- Take responsibility for your own learning and development, as a governor, including attending training.
- Attend Local Governance Committee meetings promptly, regularly, and for the full time.
- Read briefings and newsletters for governors; present a balanced view of issues representing different sections of the community.
- Promote the interests of the school in the wider community.
- Respect the confidentiality of Local Governance Committee affairs.
- Be loyal to the decisions made by the Local Governance Committee.
- Never promise to 'solve a problem' on your own.
- Never press your own child's case at the expense of others.
- Declare an interest and withdraw from any meeting where you, a partner or close relative or associate stands to gain, or where you are so close to a matter discussed it is difficult to be impartial.
- Abide by the LGC code of conduct and work within the LGC terms of reference.
- Use the Nolan Principles of Public Life*, as guidance for your governor role.

*For information visit: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-7-principles-of-public-life/the-7-principles-of-public-life--2>

Proud to be a part of
The White Horse Federation



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