

MISCONCEPTIONS OF THE PARENT GOVERNOR ROLE

Will it take up all of my time?

No, the commitment to the role is around 6-8 hours per month in term time. There are usually 3 full governing body meetings a year.

Will I be pressured into bringing up issues on behalf of other parents?

No, that is not your responsibility! You are not on the governing body to speak 'on behalf' of other parents. You are there to bring a parent perspective to the governing body, but otherwise, you have the same strategic role as other governors.

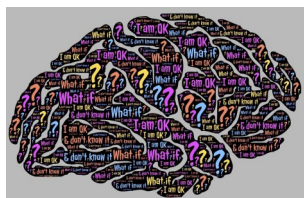
I don't think that I am experienced enough as I have not been on a governing body before.

Not at all! You will be fully supported in your role and have the chance to attend training on different aspects of the role to make you feel more confident. You will not be expected to know everything governance related when you start. You will also have a thorough induction and can shadow other governors.

There are better candidates than me/someone else will do it!

The parent governor is a valuable role to all governing body's and applications are welcomed from all members of society.

There is a national vacancy shortage rate of 10%



INFORMATION ABOUT THE ELECTION PROCESS

A letter will be sent to all parents from the headteacher to advise that there is a parent governor vacancy.

You can nominate yourself as parent governor or someone else can nominate you (only with your permission).

You will have 14 days to submit your nomination form to the Returning Officer. As part of the nomination form, you will be asked to complete a candidate statement.

If there are no other parents that have nominated themselves, then that parent will be announced as the new parent governor. However, should there be more self-nomination's than positions, this will go to a secret ballot with parents. The vote will be open for 7 days.

Late applications **cannot** be accepted.

The term of office is for **4 years** from the closing date of the election (or closing date of the secret ballot). Should your child leave the school during your term of office, you will be able to continue in the role for the remainder of your term of office or resign at that point should you wish to.



Parent Governor Information

Updated: September 2023



Parent governors bring a unique parental perspective to the governing body.

We encourage applications from all members of society, regardless of background, gender, ethnicity, disability or age (as long as you are over 18)

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Your role is to bring a parental perspective to the issues discussed. Apart from that, it is no different from other governors and you will help the governing body to carry out its 3 core functions:

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

Your role is **not** to speak 'on behalf' of the parent body or bring up individual issues within meetings.

Separate your role as a governor or trustee from your role as a parent. **Do not** bring up your child or refer to anecdotal evidence based only on your child's experience, or a friend's experience.

As a governor, you are responsible for the progress and wellbeing of **all** pupils at the school, so keep this at the forefront of your mind in meetings,

You must rely on a wide range of sources to make decisions and hold senior leaders to account. These include high-quality, objective data and the views of pupils, staff, parents and the community.

Avoid conflicts of interest. Most of the time, you will not need to declare a personal interest in all agenda items that could have an impact on your child. You should do this where:

- This matter would affect your child individually
- You feel too close to the matter to be impartial

BENEFITS OF BEING A PARENT GOVERNOR

Being a parent governor allows you to develop your skills, both personally and professionally e.g.

- Strategic Planning
- Experience on a governing body
- Holding senior leaders to account
- Finance, and maintaining oversight of potentially multi-million pound budgets
- Human Resources and Performance Management
- Project Management
- Marketing
- Communication and Teamwork
- Decision Making

YOU CAN FILL A LINK GOVERNOR ROLE

You **can** choose to be a 'link governor', where you will be linked to a specific area of school. There are three statutory link governor roles, which are:

- Safeguarding
- SEND
- Careers Education and Guidance (Secondary Schools only)

However, governing bodies often have a range of link governor roles as part of their remit. These can be subject or class specific e.g. Maths or Year 2.

Link governors will be expected to make arrangements to meet with the lead member of staff for their area e.g. Maths Lead or Year 2 Teacher. This information will be provided by the headteacher.

Link governors will be asked to complete a governor visit report with an overview of the visit (there is a template to use with pointers/questions to ask).

HELPING OTHER PARENTS TO UNDERSTAND YOUR ROLE

You are **not** responsible for bringing parental grievances to the governing body's attention.

- Introduce yourself as the parent governor
- Explain what your position entails
- If another parent approaches you at the school gate with a grievance ask the parent to put it in writing and follow the school's Complaints Procedure

ABSENCE FROM MEETINGS

- If you are absent from a meeting, it is **not** possible to have someone else speak or act on your behalf. This is the case for all governors.
- Find out how you may be able to participate remotely.
- If you are unable to attend a meeting, please email the headteacher, chair and clerk to inform them so that your apologies can be given at the meeting.

CONFIDENTIALITY

- As a parent governor, you are **bound** by confidentiality regarding the discussions held within meetings and as such, you **must not** share any information which is given within meetings.
- You **must** sign the governor's agreement and return this to the clerk of the governing body.
- All meetings are split into Part One and Part Two. Part One is the non-confidential part of the meeting and Part Two is the confidential part.