



# Would YOU make a good parent governor?

Every school is required to have a governing body that works collaboratively with the Head teacher to set the strategic direction. They play a vital role in making sure every child gets the best possible education. Governing boards need committed and enthusiastic volunteers with a range of diverse skills.

## You can help

- *The school with its strategy and vision.*
- *Hold the head teacher to account for a school's performance.*
- *Make sure the school's budget is properly managed.*

The governing board acts collectively and the primary concern of every governor must be to the school and children. Governors ask searching questions whilst respecting the Head teacher's position as a professional leader of the school. The role is strategic, not operational, and this means the Head teacher and staff manage the day to day running of the school.



## As a parent governor

- *You will bring a parental view to the work of the governing board.*
- *You will be actively helping it to be a successful school.*
- *You will be rewarded with the knowledge that you are making a difference by doing something positive for the next generation and for your local community.*

## Elections

Parents of children at the school will be asked to nominate themselves to become a governor when a vacancy occurs. If more nominations are received than places available, an election will take place. You will be asked to provide a short written statement about yourself to go out to parents along with the voting papers. Your statement does not have to show that you know all about being a governor, but should explain why you would like to get involved as a governor, what is important to you as a parent and what you hope to be able to contribute.

Although parent governors are there to represent parents' views, they are not delegates, and other parents cannot mandate parent governors on how they should vote, or what they should say in governing board meetings. However, parent governors should listen to the views of other parents to inform their input to meetings.

## Time

Being a school governor means being committed to giving time and energy to the role.

- *Each governor contributes to the work of the governing board and shares the load.*
- *Governors are asked to take part in regular meetings, read papers in advance of meetings and find out about the issues being discussed.*
- *As well as full governing board meetings, you may well attend committee meetings to look at issues like pupil performance, the curriculum, staffing, finance and premises.*
- *Governors will be expected to get to know their school by undertaking school visits.*
- *There is the expectation that governors will attend training to help them understand and develop in their role.*

## Code of Conduct

Governing boards will have a Code of Conduct and all governors have a duty to act in the interests of all children in the school, not just their own child and to maintain discretion and confidentiality. When you become a school governor you will need to be prepared to undertake safeguarding checks as well as declaring any relevant business interests which will be published on the school website.

## How you can find out more

If you would like to find out more about becoming a parent governor at your child's school, please speak to the Chair of Governors or the Head teacher.

