

FAQs

What do governors do?

The governing board works with the headteacher and the staff at the school to make sure that the school provides a good quality of education for all pupils. Governors work in partnership with the headteacher to set the strategic direction of the school. Governors are not expected and should not make day to day decisions about how the school is run. That is the role of the headteacher and senior staff. Governors have three main roles:

- 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 performance management of staff
- Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent

How much time is involved?

This will vary depending on the number of governing board meetings and the amount of committee work you choose to do. Governors work as a team and as such the amount of time that each governor can give to the role will vary. In addition to meetings governors need to get to know their school. This will be done by visiting the school for events, focussed visits and attend the more informal activities taking place in school, for example open days, assemblies, school fetes and concerts. The majority of meetings tend to take place in the evenings, but this will be agreed by all members of the governing board.

How do I become a governor?

There are a number of different, categories of school governor, some are elected and some are appointed. If you are interested in a particular school contact the headteacher to ascertain whether there are any vacancies, or contact Leadership and Governance Services who will be able to help and advise you.

Do I need any special qualifications?

You do not need any special qualifications other than to care about children and young people's education, have an interest in the community and a willingness to learn new skills and some spare time! However, boards will appoint governors based on the skills, experience and qualities they can bring.

How is the governing board made up?

Every school has a governing board which varies in size. Some governors are elected by parents or staff, some are appointed by the governing board itself and some are recommended or appointed by the local authority or religious foundations. This is to help the governing boards reflect the communities that they serve. The composition is determined by the instrument of government which has been agreed by the governing board.