

INFORMATION ABOUT BEING A SCHOOL GOVERNOR



Reasons to Volunteer

If you're interested in getting the best education for pupils at a school, being a school governor is a very good way of being drawn in. You become involved in a wide range of issues including its curriculum, its finances, and making sure the staff and children are kept safe, well and happy. You may even help with recruitment at times.

Parent Governors also provide a strong link between the school and the local community, bringing an independent, but valued and informed view to help the school's long term development.

Governors meet together at least termly, and are expected to get to know their schools through visits too. There are a range of training opportunities available to help you with the work, and develop your understanding of the key areas in school management.

What Governors Do

Governors are strategic leaders within schools and have a vital role to play in making sure every child gets the best possible education.

This role is demanding but very rewarding and a great way to give back to your local community. Good schools need good governors.

The role of the school governor

Governors have a strong focus on three core strategic functions:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and direction
- Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of the staff
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent

However governors work together as a unit, so all decisions become the joint responsibility of the governing body as a whole.

As a governor, you'll attend meetings, and be prepared to ask questions on the reports and planning which come with them. You'll be expected to take responsibility for one or two areas of particular interest, and visit the school to learn about (and question) them in more depth. You'll be expected to attend training too, and in due course may well have a special responsibility assigned to you like Development and Training, Safeguarding, or Health and Safety.

Don't worry, no one governor is expected to know it all. The strength of a governing body lies in its ability to attract and rely upon members from a wide variety of backgrounds, who share out the duties between them, but then take all decisions as a group.

Time Commitment

We suggest about 20 to 30 hours per term, often in the evenings, but with the occasional need to visit the school during the daytime.

Governing bodies are free to organise their own structure but your work could include:

- Preparing for meetings by reading reports on the issues for which decisions are to be made, together with preparing to question anything which may need further detail;
- attendance at approximately 3-4 of these meetings a term
- visits into school to learn about aspects of the school in greater depth
- special projects
- staff recruitment
- reviewing policies and the school's budget

Skills Required

You'll enjoy governance if you:

- are committed and interested in our children's future and improving educational outcomes
- enjoy learning about the issues a school has, and analysing and questioning them
- able to assimilate information, make judgements and take decisions
- have good inter-personal skills and enjoy working as a team
- have time!
- although not essential, have experience in areas such as education, finance, personnel, business, etc. or want to learn about these.

Support and Training

Your governing body will have an induction process for anyone new, and you'll have a mentor. There's also plenty of local training available, covering all areas of governance.

Benefits of Being a Governor

Being a school governor can be very rewarding. Benefits that others have found include:

- the knowledge that you are helping schools and pupils
- the satisfaction of giving something back to the community
- a sense of purpose and achievement
- new skills which may be transferable elsewhere
- broader horizons
- new friends and workmates
- training and support in order to help you with your duties and responsibilities

This information has come from Hampshire CC Governor Services

[Volunteer as a school governor | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](https://www.hants.gov.uk)