

Parent Governor Fact Sheet

The governing body consists of Parent Governors, Staff Governors, the Headteacher, Community Governors and two Foundation Governors. Our school has three Parent Governors. Parent Governors have all the same powers and duties as other governors.

The governing body meets once a term, usually in the evening. If possible every governor joins at least one of our committees. These are responsible for different aspects of the school such as Resources (including Finance, Premises, and Staffing) and Data. Committees meet once a term at times which suit the committee members. We also invite governors to come into school occasionally during the school day so they can understand how the school operates and see improvements for themselves.

To be eligible to stand for election as a Parent Governor you have to have parental responsibility for a pupil at the school. Having "parental responsibility" is not limited to biological parents, but will cover you if you are a step-parent, foster parent, grandparent bringing up the child, or permanent partner of the child's biological parent. A few people cannot be school governors; those who have been made bankrupt or who have been in prison for certain offences may not serve for at least three years afterwards. School staff are not eligible to stand as Parent Governors if they are employed for 500 hours or more per year. If you have any doubts as to your eligibility on any of these grounds, please contact the school office.

A candidate for Parent Governor must have a child on the school roll at the time the election is held. However, Parent Governors do not have to resign if their children leave the school before their term of office has expired.

A candidate is a representative member of the parent body rather than a delegate.

- Parent Governors do not have to try to represent the views of all parents.
- They should communicate with them about issues that arise, but only in so far as is reasonable: not confidential matters.
- When decisions have to be made by the governing body, each Parent Governor is free to vote in accordance with his/her own views.

The Governors handbook emphasises the importance of the skills, experience and personal attitudes brought by each governor. In addition, it is essential that all new governors attend the Induction Course provided by Governor Services for newly appointed governors so that you are fully aware of your role and contribute effectively to the work of the governing body team.