

Governors Information (March 2013)

What do Governors do?

- Together with the headteacher they are responsible for making sure our schools provide good quality education.
- They provide challenge and support to headteachers, drawing on their knowledge and experience.
- They make decisions together on matters such as performance, targets, school policies and school development plans.
- They monitor the impact of policies and oversee school budgets and staffing.
- They report on school achievements and respond to inspection recommendations.
- They hear appeals from pupils and staff and consider complaints.
- They ask searching questions and respect the position of headteachers as professional leaders of schools.

What skills do governors need?

No formal qualifications are necessary but our schools are keen to attract people in the community who can bring energy, experience and fresh ideas.

The ability to communicate is very important.

Some people who would make very good governors may be put off because they think you need to be an expert. Not so - interest, enthusiasm and commitment are much more important.

Who is eligible?

Anyone over 18 can become a school governor, with a few exceptions.

All applicants are subject to checks to ensure the safety and protection of the young people in our schools. You don't need to have a child at a school to become a school governor.

Being a governor can be very rewarding

Despite the fact that governors are volunteers they can get a great deal from the work and time they put in. It gives them a chance to:

- make a difference to how well schools are run
- see how their efforts help raise standards
- do something positive for the next generation
- serve the local community
- help realise their own potential by learning new skills.

Schools are part of the community they serve – and can provide a focal point for improving life chances for adults too.

Everyone has something to offer their local school; but governors find that they gain a lot too, from meeting new people to gaining new skills and most importantly the knowledge that you are helping to improve educational standards for children and young people in the area.

Many employers encourage staff to become school governors. They realise that the skills gained from being a governor are transferable to the workplace.

How much of your time is needed?

Governing bodies meet at least once a term, usually after school or in the early evening. In addition governors need to attend committee meetings, school events and appropriate training. Governors are encouraged to visit school during the day to see it in action, and to get to know the staff and pupils. Governors usually serve for four years.

What support will you receive?

Support, training and guidance is available from your school and Cheshire West & Chester Council

PARENT GOVERNORS

Becoming a school governor

There are lots of ways in which you can [donate expertise](#) to a school, but one of the most important and responsible - and let's face it, one which involves the greatest commitment - is becoming a governor.

What do school governors do?

School governors are a team of people who work closely with the head teacher to make key decisions vital to the successful running of the school. The governors appoint the head teacher and make decisions that directly affect the education and well-being of the children. They play an important role in improving standards throughout the school and agree the school's budget. In other words, it's a very meaningful role!

How do I become a parent governor?

If your child attends a school, you can be elected as a parent governor by the parents. Schools organise these elections, and inform parents and staff about them. You can also become a governor by approaching the school to see if they will co-opt you or by asking the local authority, church or foundation if they would appoint you.

What do I have to offer?

As a parent governor, you can make a valuable contribution to the running of the school. You will be able to offer your enthusiasm and commitment - and as a parent, you'll understand other parents' concerns. Governors with business and management experience, or a host of other skills, can also offer extremely helpful expertise to the school.

What will I get out of it?

Being a school governor can be a rewarding experience. You'll be playing an important part in improving the children's education and supporting the school's staff, and giving a lot to the school and the community usually means you'll get a lot back. Being a governor is also an opportunity to develop new skills or practice existing ones that can help you in your day job, like chairing meetings, putting forward suggestions and asking the right questions, speaking in public, appointing staff, and helping other members who are new to the job or have less experience of committee work.

How much time does it take?

The time that governors are able to give to the role varies but there are certain things they must be in a position to do, so be aware:

- the governing body must meet at least once a term
- governors are probably asked to serve on at least one committee which will meet more often
- meetings are sometimes held during the working day and very often during the evening
- governors will have to prepare for meetings and there can be a lot of papers to read
- if you are not able to prepare for and attend meetings you will not be able to make an effective contribution.

If you think you'd like to investigate further contact the school.