

Role of the parent governor

The governing board has a strategic role in the leadership of the school. The core functions of the governing board are to:

- Ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Hold executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff
- Oversee the financial performance of the organisation and make sure its money is well spent.

Parent governors are in a unique position on a governing board. Not only do parent governors have to work in the best interests of the school, but they have to balance this with their natural desire to see the best outcomes for their own child(ren).

What are the good bits about being a Parent governor?

- ❖ You have a very privileged and responsible role.
- ❖ You will have the opportunity to make a difference, not only for your children, but for all children in years to come.
- ❖ You will learn and develop new skills.

How you fulfil your role

- ❖ Attend governing board meetings regularly and play an active role in committees and decision – making.
- ❖ Undertake induction training and commit to other development opportunities
- ❖ Visit school
- ❖ Learn all you can about the school.
- ❖ Be approachable to other parents, but make sure you are clear about your role.
- ❖ Always represent the school positively.
- ❖ As a governor you are one of a group and must never act alone.
- ❖ Have your say on decisions in meetings and vote in a way you wish; but then always support the decisions of the full governing board – even if you disagree with them.
- ❖ Always, always, always observe confidentiality. You will be privy to highly sensitive and confidential information – do not discuss it with anyone who is not on the governing board. Remember, a governor can be suspended or removed for serious breaches of confidentiality.

Parent governors do not

- ❖ Gather the views of other parents and take them to the governing board
- ❖ Represent the interests of individual parents
- ❖ Be a link between parents and the governing board
- ❖ Bring complaints about the school to governing board meetings
- ❖ Vote as instructed by other parents

