

What is the role of a parent governor within the Governing Body and what does it entail?

What different types of governors are on the Governing Body?

The Governing Body of the school is made up of 3 'types' of governors – Foundation Governors (active members of the Christian community), Co-opted Governors (invited to serve as their skills and experience will strengthen the Governing Body), and Parent Governors (who, by their contributions in meetings, help the Governing Body to understand the parents perspective).

What is the purpose of the Governing Body?

All governors are appointed with one common purpose – to govern the school in the best interest of pupils. They are responsible for: ensuring that the school has a clear vision, monitoring the educational performance and overseeing the financial budget. Governors act strategically by scrutinising and approving school plans and tracking the achievements of the school towards their goals. Governors are not involved in the operational matters of the school – these are the responsibility of the Headteacher and staff.

How can parent governors strengthen the Governing Body?

- Parent governors can ask important questions if a change is proposed by the school (*has this been explained to parents?, have parents views been sought?, how will this change impact parents?)*
- Parent governors can help other parents to understand the schools perspective (*it is important that parents understand however that parent governors are not on the Governing Body to bring up individual issues or opinions or solve parents problems for them*)
- Parent governors, as members of the Governing Body, are responsible for the progress and wellbeing of *all* pupils at the school.

Is there any training available for new parent governors?

The school subscribes to Schools Choice – an organisation that provides a wide range of training courses. These are normally 90 minutes in length and the most important course for a new governor is the Introduction to Safeguarding. At the moment these courses are delivered virtually.

What are the benefits to parents of being a governor?

Being a parent governor is an opportunity to see things from the school's perspective and see how the school is managed. You can gain an understanding of how decisions are made and the pressures on school leaders. It may also be a chance to develop new skills.

What are the time demands?

Over the course of the year there are 5 Governing Body meetings and 3 committee meetings (each governor is either on the Resources Committee or the Pupil Committee) and each meeting lasts between 1 and 2 hours in length. So maximum meeting time for the year is 16 hours (about 5 hours a term). In addition to that governors make monitoring visits to the school (not at the moment however due to Covid restrictions) – about 1 hour a term.