

What *does* a School Governor do?

Role of a school governor

- Contribute to the school community
- Ensure quality education is delivered
- Focus on school's strategic direction
- Hold school leaders to account for performance of organisation, staff and pupils
- Oversee financial performance and ensure money is well spent

Governor activities:

- Attend governing body meetings, which include committees. Currently these are online during COVID, but will resume in school later
- Discuss strategic priorities and targets of school
- Ask challenging questions to the school leadership team
- Ensure all children have access to a broad and balanced curriculum, including those with special educational needs
- Oversee school budget and other pupil expenditure, including required audits
- Monitor staffing structure, and review performance and wellbeing
- Review and monitor school policies
- Monitoring school performance data and how this affects the School Development Plan
- Ensure staff have the necessary resources to do their jobs well
- Become a link governor for a specific issue of school life or function
- Listen to and report to school's stakeholders and wider community

A governor is expected to

- Get to know the school, including visiting during school hours
- Gain a good understanding of the school's strengths and weaknesses
- Attend induction and other training for professional development
- Attend meetings (full governing board and committees)
- Read all the papers before the meeting
- Act in the best interests of the school's pupils
- Behave in a professional manner, as set down in the Code of Conduct

A governor's commitment

- Attend as many meetings as you can
- Be thoroughly prepared for the meetings and arrive promptly
- Commit at least the equivalent of 10 days a year to the school
- Expect more if key roles are undertaken, such as Chairs of committees or Link responsibilities
- Employed governors are entitled to "reasonable time off" to undertake public duties, which includes school governance. Discuss this with your employer
- Taking on other volunteer roles within the school can enhance your governor experience

Governor expenses

- Being a school governor is voluntary, but extraordinary expenses can be claimed after agreement with the Chair of Governors