

School Governors: A Guide for Parents

Being a school governor is a vital and rewarding role that allows parents and community members to contribute directly to the improvement of education in their local schools. This document outlines what's involved in being a school governor, including duties, commitments, and the benefits of taking on this important responsibility.

WHAT IS A SCHOOL GOVERNOR?

School governors are volunteers who work together as part of a governing board to support and challenge school leadership, ensuring the best possible education for students. Governors come from all walks of life and bring diverse skills and experiences.



TIME COMMITMENTS

Being a school governor requires a significant time commitment:

- 1. Attending Meetings:** Governors typically attend full governing board meetings (3/year) and also serve on committees that meet separately (6/year)
- 2. Reading Documents:** Governors must review documents before meetings, including policies, reports, and data on school performance.
- 3. School Visits:** Governors are expected to visit the school during the day to observe and gather information about specific areas of responsibility (Max 3/year)
- 4. Training:** New governors are required to undergo induction/ongoing training.



DUTIES OF A SCHOOL GOVERNOR

As a school governor, your main responsibilities include:

1. Setting the school's vision, ethos, and strategic direction
2. Holding the Senior Leadership Team accountable for the educational performance of the school and its pupils
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and ensuring money is well spent
4. Ensuring the school meets its statutory obligations, including safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.



SKILLS AND QUALITIES

Effective school governors often possess:

- Strong communication and teamwork skills
- The ability to analyse data and ask challenging questions
- A commitment to improving education for all children
- The capacity to learn and develop new skills



THE REWARDS OF BEING A SCHOOL GOVERNOR

Being a school governor is highly rewarding:

- 1. Making a Difference:** You'll have a direct impact on improving education and life chances for children in your community.
- 2. Personal Development:** The role offers opportunities to develop new skills, gain experience in strategic planning, and enhance your CV.
- 3. Networking:** You'll work alongside a diverse group of people, potentially forming valuable personal and professional connections.
- 4. Insight into Education:** Gain a deeper understanding of the education system and the challenges schools face.
- 5. Community Engagement:** Strengthen your connection to the local community and contribute to its development.



Being a school governor is a fulfilling role that allows parents and community members to make a significant contribution to education. While it requires time, commitment, and ongoing learning, the rewards of seeing positive changes in your local school and the lives of its students are immeasurable.

If you're passionate about making a difference, consider becoming a school governor. Your skills, experiences, and dedication could help shape the future of education in your community.

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