

Parent Governor Information

Understanding the Roles and Responsibilities of a Parent Governor.

What is a School Governor?

School governors are volunteers who work together as a **governing body** to oversee the strategic direction, accountability, and financial performance of the school. Governors do not manage the school day-to-day but support and challenge the school leadership team.

What is a Parent Governor?

A parent governor is elected by other parents to represent the parent body on the governing board. They serve as a **vital link** between parents and the governing board, bringing a parental viewpoint to decision-making.

Eligibility:

- Must have a child at the school at the time of election
 - Cannot be a paid employee of the school working more than 500 hours per year
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Key Roles and Responsibilities

1. Strategic Oversight

- Contribute to the development of the **school's vision and ethos**
- Help shape and approve the **school improvement plan**
- Monitor progress toward **strategic goals**

2. Accountability

- Hold school leaders to account for **pupil achievement** and **teaching quality**
- Review and question data on **attendance, attainment, and safeguarding**

3. Financial Oversight

- Help ensure the budget is used effectively
- Review **spending plans** and evaluate **value for money**

4. Representation

- Bring a **parental perspective** to board discussions
- Act as a bridge between parents and the governing body (not a spokesperson or complaints handler)

5. Policy & Compliance

- Review and contribute to school **policies**
 - Ensure compliance with statutory duties, including **SEND, safeguarding, and equality**
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Time Commitment

- Attend **full governing body meetings** (typically once per term)
 - Participate in at least one **committee** (e.g. curriculum, finance)
 - Attend **training sessions** and **school events** when possible
 - Estimated time: **6–12 hours per term**
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Training and Support

Governors are expected to complete:

- **Induction training** (online or in person)
 - Mandatory training in **safeguarding** and **data protection**
 - Ongoing development via local authority or National Governance Association (NGA)
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☐ What You Are Not Responsible For

- Day-to-day management of the school
- Handling individual parent complaints
- Making decisions on behalf of all parents

You represent the **parental viewpoint**, not the individual views of every parent.

☐ Working with Others

You'll work closely with:

- **Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team**
- Other **governors**
- Possibly **external advisers** (e.g., Ofsted or local authority)

Collaboration, respect, and confidentiality are essential at all times.

Communication & Confidentiality

- Maintain **confidentiality** of board discussions
 - Avoid sharing sensitive school information
 - Use appropriate channels if contacted by other parents regarding governance issues
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Term of Office

- Usually a **four-year term**
 - You may resign at any time by giving written notice to the clerk
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☐ Final Thoughts

Being a parent governor is a rewarding role where your insights can make a real difference. You are helping to shape the future of your child's school and ensuring it serves all pupils effectively.