



# A Parent Governor

We are seeking a person who fits the following description:








- Currently has a child or children in our school
- Has an open and enquiring mind
- Shows a willingness to listen and make informed judgements
- Is able to work well with others
- Is interested in education generally and our school in particular
- Has a desire to play a part in improving our school
- Is willing to give about 15 hours per term to attend meetings and training

If you match the above description, you could be the very person to become a parent governor. Everyone has something to offer and we want people from as many backgrounds and interests as possible.










# Reward

## In return we can offer:

-  An insight into the wider perspective of the school through long-term planning.
-  A chance to develop skills in strategic leadership.
-  The opportunity to work with our team of Directors, Governors and Staff in improving our school.
-  Training to develop an understanding of specific school leadership issues.
-  The support and assistance of the Lumen Learning Trust (LLT) Directors.
-  A sense of achievement in making a difference to our school.
-  The pleasure of seeing children thrive and become successful learners.

## The role of the Local Governance Board (LGB) of our school:

-  The Local Governance Board is a committee of the Trust Directors and has an advisory role, to support the Directors, in providing support and challenge to the senior leaders.
-  Supporting the Executive Principal and Headteacher in their monitoring role within the context of the school's key performance indicators.
-  Supporting the Executive Principal in her role regarding duty of care for Headteachers.
-  Supporting the Headteachers in their role regarding duty of care for staff.
-  Governors work collaboratively with the Headteacher on the strategic planning and leadership of the school by adding strength and integrity to evidence cited by the leadership team through; questioning, visiting and seeing for yourself and considering triangulated evidence.
-  Collaborating with governors, school leadership teams from other LLT schools along with Directors & Executive Principal in considering impact of decisions.
-  Keeping abreast with National & local 'landscapes' affecting schools.



## **Governors link communities and schools**

Governors are the link between the school and the community and representatives of all those with an interest in the well-being and reputation of the school are needed.

We are all volunteers, working in our own time, and we are all busy people. However, we feel that we gain much in personal development as well as a feeling of satisfaction that we have played an important part in improving education in the local community. There are opportunities to work with the Directors on aspects of strategic planning and management, including financial oversight and resources. The Directors Business and Management Committee includes representatives from Local Governance Boards, deals with the Trust and Schools Finances, we employ staff to do the actual work on our behalf, just as we take an interest in the teaching and learning, but employ teachers to actually teach the pupils.

## **Teamworking**

We work together as a team, with a collective responsibility.

## **Different People**

The Governance Board seeks individuals from as many different backgrounds as possible, in order to fully reflect the community, the school serves. Everyone has something to offer. Specific training (free) is available to develop an understanding of strategic school Improvement.

## **Representing Parents**

As a parent governor you will be a governor in your own right, with the same responsibilities as everyone else, to work together as part of the Governance Board for the good of the school.

As a parent governor you do not have to vote in a particular way because you have been pressed to do so by parents. Objectivity, however, is essential. You are not there to promote the interests of your own children, but all children.

Sometimes a parent governor may be approached with a concern. Parent governors are not there to provide an alternative route to addressing individual parental concerns, although if you do become aware of more widespread disquiet about the School's policy and practice then you should alert the Headteacher and Chair.



# Making a Difference

Governors can make a real difference to the performance of the school and have a real part to play in making the school successful.

## As an effective parent governor you :

-  Help to decide the priorities for improving the school.
-  Work in partnership with the headteacher, senior leadership team and cooperatively with other governors, to raise standards and improve outcomes for all children.
-  Prepare for meetings by reading papers beforehand.
-  Take responsibility for your own learning and development, as a governor, including attending training.
-  Attend local Governance Board meetings promptly, regularly, and for the full time.
-  Read briefings and newsletters for governors; present a balanced view of issues representing different sections of the community.
-  Promote the interests of the school in the wider community.
-  Respect the confidentiality of Governance Board affairs.
-  Be loyal to the decisions made by the Governance Board.
-  Never promise to 'solve a problem' on your own.
-  Never press your own child's case at the expense of others.
-  Declare an interest and withdraw from any meeting where you, a partner or close relative or associate stands to gain, or where you are so close to a matter discussed it is difficult to be impartial.
-  Abide by the LGB code of conduct and work within the LGB terms of reference.
-  Use the Nolan Principles of Public Life, as guidance for your governor role.

