

Langrish Primary School

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Being a Parent Governor

Parent Governors are elected by the school's parent body. Before putting forward an application, statement or casting vote, please take a look at the following guidance.

Unlike other governors on the board, as a parent governor you will have direct experience of the curriculum through your children, and can appreciate first hand how the school is perceived by fellow parents and pupils. You will be able to bring this valuable perspective to the strategic management of the school.

A parent governor should first and foremost:

- Be interested in improving the futures of all children
- Be willing to accept responsibility
- Be able to work as a team, ask questions, listen and learn
- Have a desire to make a difference

As a parent governor you are representative of the parent body and your viewpoint will help to inform discussions and decisions. However, you are not a delegate of parents and should not vote in a particular way because you have been pressed to do so by other parents. Objectivity is essential; you are there to promote the interests of all children.

As an elected governor, it is important to establish a rapport with the parent body whilst continuing to maintain a strategic approach to school governance.

An effective parent governor will:

- Work in partnership with the Headteacher, Senior Leadership Team and other governors to:
 - Ensure the safety and wellbeing of children at the school
 - Raise standards and improve outcomes for all children
 - Decide the priorities for improving the school.
- Act as a critical friend to the school, offering support to the Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team while holding them accountable for school performance
- Understand and accept joint accountability for the governing body's actions and performance
- Attend full governing body and relevant committee meetings promptly, regularly and for the full duration, and:
 - Prepare for such meetings by reading papers beforehand
 - Read governor briefings and newsletters so as to present a balanced view of issues representing different sections of the community
 - Declare an interest and withdraw from any meeting where they, a partner or close relative/associate stands to gain, or where they feel they cannot be impartial
 - Never press their own child's case at the expense of others
 - Respect the confidentiality of governing body affairs
 - Be loyal to the decisions made by the governing body
- Take responsibility for their own learning and development, and attend governor training.
- Promote the interests of the school in the wider community.
- Never promise to 'solve a problem' on their own.

We would like to encourage as many parents as possible to put themselves forward for the current vacancy. At the same time, it is vital that anyone considering standing for election ensures they have sufficient time to devote to their role as a governor. This includes being available as appropriate, sometimes during the school day.



The Full Governing Body meets at least 6 times per year (twice per term). There are two main sub-committees, which each meet at least three times per year (once per term); all governors are expected to joint at least one committee.

Full Governing Body meetings take place on weekday evenings, while committee meetings generally take place just after school (Standards Committee) or during the school day (Finance and Personnel Committee).

Meetings generally last between 2 and 3 hours and the required reading before each meeting could be the same time again.

There are various training courses available to help you become an effective Governor outside of the mentoring that we will provide. There is a 1-day mandatory Governor Induction course at an offsite location, role specific training that is usually a half-day or evening course at an offsite location and Whole Governing Body training sessions which are held at the school one evening per year.

Governors are also asked to attend other meetings of working groups or panels that may be required, for example to carry out deeper investigation in to specific issues as they arise. These meetings may be before, during or after the school day.

Each Governor is linked to at least one area of the school development plan and will need to devote time during each school term to monitoring and evaluating progress against this objective; this may involve talking to staff, pupils and parents.

Governors are also invited to attend school events.

Specific skills

As a governing body we are responsible for ensuring that we have the relevant skills to carry out our remit. We welcome applications from any parents with the devotion and time to contribute to our function, however the following skills would be particularly desirable:

- Accountancy and financial management
- Account auditing and returns
- School assessment/Ofsted process preparation/school inspections
- Human Resources policy and processes
- Fundraising
- Training and development

Further information

More detail about being a school governor can be found on the Hampshire Governor Services website, at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/governors>.

Or, if you'd like to ask one of the current parent governors anything about the role, feel free to catch us at the school gate (our photos are on the Governors page of the Langrish School website if you're not sure who we are) or leave your details with the school office and one of us will get in touch.