

Your School in your Community

A school's role in the community extends beyond education. They act as a vital hub for social cohesion and community engagement. Schools educate students, foster social connections, offer community services, and contribute to the local economy. They also play a role in emergency response and civic engagement.

Could you be our new parent governor?

Parent governors help to support stakeholder engagement at a local level. Although you will bring a parental perspective to issues being discussed, your role is not to represent the parent body nor to act as a spokesperson.

The role of a parent governor is no different to any other governor. You will work together as a group to:

- Monitor and review school performance
- Build relationships with senior staff to provide effective support and challenge
- Undertake termly visits to school to gain assurance that strategies are working
- Engage with pupils, staff, parents and the wider school community to understand their views.

Each governing committee has two parent governors.

Eligibility

Any parent of a pupil currently on roll at the school can put themselves forward to be a parent governor. There is a short application form in which we ask you to share your skills, experience and motivation for becoming a governor. If you put yourself forward for the role, you would normally be invited to meet informally with the chair of governors and one or more trustees. This allows potential governors to understand our expectations of the role and to answer any questions you may have.

Election process

Parent governors are elected. Once you have submitted your application, if there is only one eligible nomination, you will be elected unopposed. If more than one eligible nomination is received, an election will be held. The parent body is the electorate. Each parent receives one vote. The winner will be the person who receives the most votes.

Term of appointment

A term of office is usually for four years, renewable subject to eligibility. If your child(ren) cease to be pupils at the school during the term, you can usually serve out the remainder of your current term but would not be eligible for re-election as a parent governor.

As a parent governor, you can:

- Enhance children and young people's life chances by using your experience and skills to bring fresh perspectives to the committee
- Question executive teams to ensure pupils get the education they need to succeed
- Represent diverse voices and ensure that often-overlooked groups are included in discussions
- Contribute positively to your local community, and the wider communities where the academy trust operates
- Build professional networks and acquire new skills to further benefit yourself, the school and its pupils.

What you can expect from the Trust

- A warm welcome and support from a knowledgeable Chair
- Induction material, including tools and resources, to help you familiarise yourself with the role
- A 'buddy' who is an experienced governor or trustee
- Access to training and development opportunities to help you in your role
- The information you need to ask the right questions at the right time
- Professional clerking.

What we expect from governors

- Commitment to prepare for and attend four committee meetings per year, in school, plus one 'governance development' session every other year
- If serving as a link governor, commitment to undertake two visits per academic year in school hours, preparing a short report of your findings to present to the next committee meeting
- If serving as a link governor, attend at least one meeting annually with the link governors from all the governing committees and the link trustee
- Completion of mandatory safeguarding training, declaration of relevant personal or business interests, DBS checks, and adherence to the governance code of conduct
- Enthusiasm to participate in the school community and understand what life is like for pupils, e.g. attending assemblies, sports days.
- A willingness to undertake additional training, in your own time, to support you in your role
- Readiness to remain impartial
- Ability to maintain confidentiality.