



Becoming a school Governor - What to expect

COULD YOU BECOME A GOVERNOR?

A governor should have:-

- An interest in **all** children's futures;
- A desire to make a difference;
- A willingness to accept responsibility;
- An ability to work in a team and is happy to ask questions, listen and learn;
- The skills to contribute to effective governance and success of the school or at least the capacity and willingness to develop them.

and will:-

- Act with integrity, objectivity and honesty in the best interests of the school;
- Fulfil a largely strategic role in the running of the school;
- Work in partnership with the Headteacher to raise standards;
- Actively contribute to the work of the Local Academy Board;
- Abide by the Local Academy Board's adopted Code of Conduct.

Typical governor responsibilities:-

- Helping to decide the priorities for improving the school;
- Focusing on the Local Academy Board's **3 Core Strategic Functions**;
- Embracing and promoting the **7 Key Principles of Public Life**
- Working co-operatively with other Governors in the best interest of the school;
- Preparing for and attendance at meetings of the Local Academy Body and its committees – meetings usually take place on Monday evenings at 5:30pm;
- Promoting the interest of the school in the wider community;
- Having an equal right to participate and to state their views, whilst respecting the views of others;
- Loyalty to the decisions made by the Local Academy Body;
- Respectful of the confidentiality of those items of business that have been designated as confidential and not disclosing what individuals have said or how they have voted;
- Withdrawing from a decision from which he or she or a partner or close relative stands to gain or where he or she is too involved to be objective;
- Having regard to the broader responsibilities as a Governor of a public institution in regard to promoting a public accountability for the actions and performance of the Local Academy Body;
- Participating in appropriate training.

What to consider when thinking about becoming a governor:

- Do you have an interest in improving the educational provision for young people?
- Can you commit the time – at least 6 evening meetings a year plus additional committees?
- Do you have the time to prepare for Local Academy Board meetings i.e. reading of documents/reports in advance of meetings?
- Do you have the confidence to speak up and challenge?
- Can you work as part of a team of governors to ensure that the Local Academy Board provides effective governance to meet the 6 key features determined by the Department for Education?
- Will you embrace the principles of the **Governing Body's Code of Conduct**?
- Can you commit to participate in the governors' training programme – this may well be in your own time?