

# Being a school governor

School governors are people who want to make a positive contribution to children's education.

## What do governors do?

School governors provide strategic leadership and accountability in schools. Governors hold the main responsibility for finance in schools, and work with the Headteacher to make tough decisions about raising standards and balancing resources.

The role of governor is largely a thinking and questioning role, not a doing role.

## Who can become a governor?

Almost anyone over 18 years of age can become a governor. There are no particular qualifications or requirements, other than a willingness to give time to the role and a capacity for working with other people. Governors are required to have a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. Parent governors should have a child in education, but not necessarily at the school to which they are applying.

## How much time does it take?

Generally, there are between 4 and 6 meetings spread throughout each term; currently, meetings are during the afternoon or early evening.

Under Section 50 of the *Employment Rights Act 1996*, if you are employed, then you are entitled to 'reasonable time off' to undertake public duties; this includes school governance. 'Reasonable time off' is not defined in law, and you will need to negotiate with your employer how much time you will be allowed.

The term of office is from one to four years and may be extended if you wish to continue for longer.

## Is it a paid role?

Governors are volunteers who may receive out of pocket expenses incurred as a result of fulfilling their role as governor,

## How do I become a governor?

We would love to hear from you. Please contact the Clerk to the Governors (Shelley Rees) at [allgovernors@gmail.com](mailto:allgovernors@gmail.com) and we will arrange to meet with you to chat further about the role, or contact the office staff who can let you have a paper application form.

