



Being a Parent Governor

Fundamentally, your role as a parent and governor is no different to that of the other governors. You have equal rights and status with all other governors and you are not restricted in your role to matters of parental interest. Being a parent governor involves achieving a delicate balance of roles. Parents can now join governing bodies by two routes; they can be elected by fellow parents or be appointed governors based on their skills. Whether individuals are elected or appointed to either category they do not carry an obligation to express any views apart from their own and do not represent the parent body. However they hold the unique position of having a parental view point. Through your children you will have first-hand experience of the curriculum and how the school is perceived from their point of view. The term "parent governor" is used throughout to refer to both elected parent governors and appointed governors who are parents.

Parent governors are:

Well placed to understand parent's views and to remind the governing body how matters being discussed affect parents;

Individuals who act according to their own conscience. How they vote on any decision is up to them;

In a good position to help the governing body to communicate effectively with parents;

Equal in all status to all other governors.

Parent governors are not:

Expected to gather the views of other parents and take them to the governing body;

Simply expected to represent the interests of parents;

A link between parents and the governing body;

Expected to vote as instructed by other parents.

How to fulfil your role

Attend governing body meetings regularly and play an active role in committees and decision making.

Learn all you can about the school.

Consider how the school communicates with parents?

Consider how easy is it for parents to go into school to discuss things with the headteacher or teachers.