

Who can be a Governor?

Anyone who is eighteen or over, a legal resident of the UK and not disqualified under the School Governance Constitution (England) Regulations 2003 is eligible for the role. You do not need to be a parent or have any particular qualifications to become a governor, enthusiasm and a desire to make a difference are the most important qualities a volunteer can have.

Why become a Governor?

Governors perform the most important voluntary role in education and a full and diverse governing body can be a source of enormous strength to a school. Volunteering as a governor is a great way to contribute to your local community, meet new people and improve the lives of local children. You will develop transferable skills and learn more about the education system whilst putting existing skills and experience to good use.

What does the governing body do?

Governing bodies are responsible for the strategic management of a school and will make decisions about a wide range of issues.

The core responsibilities involved are:

- Ensuring accountability
- Acting as a 'critical friend' to the Head Teacher
- Monitoring and evaluating the school's progress
- Budgetary allocation and control
- Planning for the long term future of the school
- Setting the school's aims and values
- Appointing senior members of staff including the Head Teacher

The governing body is usually split into a small number of committees, each responsible for one area such as finance or health and safety. These committees will meet separately from the main governing body to discuss relevant issues in more detail. Discussion is then fed back at a full governing body meeting.

Who appoints governors?

There are several different groups responsible for appointing governors, although once appointed all governors essentially perform the same role.

- Community governors are intended to represent the community served by the school and are appointed by the governing body itself.
- Parent governors usually have children at the school and have been elected to join the governing body by the parent body. If it is not possible to fill a parent vacancy this way the governing body may appoint parents of children at other schools. (Parent Governor vacancies at Guilsborough School will be advertised on the school website.)
- Staff governors are elected on to the governing body by staff at the school.
- Associate members are appointed in an advisory capacity by the governing body, but have no formal voting power.

How much time is involved?

There are 5 full governing body meetings a year. All governors are appointed to one of the 3 governing body committees. Each committee meets approximately 5 times a year. It is also beneficial if you are able to come into school during the day to sit on interview panels and attend meetings.

Is training offered?

All new governors are given the opportunity to attend induction training and support will be provided by more experienced members of the governing body.