

THE ROLE OF A SCHOOL GOVERNOR



HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED BECOMING A SCHOOL GOVERNOR IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE?

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Would you make a good school governor?

Are you interested in serving your community?

Can you spare some time?

Do you enjoy working as part of a team?

If the answer is **YES** then please read on.

All over the County, school governors are helping headteachers and staff in Cambridgeshire to ensure our children and young people get the best from their time in school.

Who are school governors?

School governors are the largest volunteer force in the County. There are currently around 4,000 governors in Cambridgeshire!

You do not have to have children at a school to be a governor. You do have to be over 18 and pass and satisfy the eligibility criteria set by the Government.

Are there rewards in becoming a governor?

It can assist with your personal development, you get access to training and experience of a live boardroom situation and an enormous sense of satisfaction in supporting your community and children in Cambridgeshire.

What do governors do?

A governing body works with the headteacher and the staff at the school to make sure the school provides a good quality education for all its pupils. Governors do not need specialist skills, just an ability to listen, think through new ideas and decide what is best for the school as part of a team. Governors are not expected to make day to day decisions about how the school is run, this is the job of the headteacher.

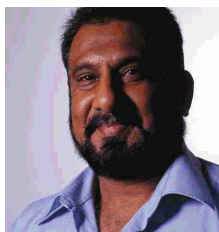
The three key roles of a governing body are to:

- Provide strategic direction for the school
- Work with the headteacher to raise standards and promote the well being of pupils
- Ensure accountability

How much time does it take?

The term of office for a school governor is normally four years. You will need to be able to give some time to prepare for and attend meetings. Most schools have a full governing body meeting twice a term (about 2 hours) and you may also join a committee which usually meet once a term. You may also be invited to make planned visits to the school.

Being a school governor is a real opportunity to use your experiences and to learn new skills. Your school and the School Governance/Traded Governor Services Teams will give you all the training and support you will need in your role as a school governor. New governors are expected to attend one of the Induction Courses run through the County for new governors - these sessions are also available online.



TYPES OF GOVERNORS AND ROUTES TO GOVERNORSHIP

Local Authority Governors	Nominated by the governing body or the county councillor(s)/local member(s) whose ward the school is situated in and are appointed by the governing body (following the agreed local authority process).
Parent Governors	The parents of every school elect parent governors.
Staff Governors	This category includes the headteacher who is ex-officio, other staff governors are elected.
Community/Co-opted Governors	These are appointed by the governing body.
Foundation Governors	Appointed by the school's founding body, church, trustees or other organisation.
Partnership Governors	Partnership governors take the place of foundation governors in schools where there is no foundation or equivalent body. The school community nominates people who the governing body then appoint.
<small>*Co-opted governors are only applicable if the governing body has reconstituted since September 2012.</small>	

The Seven Principles of Public Life

Selflessness

Holders of public office should take decisions solely in terms of the public interest. They should not do so in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family or their friends.

Integrity

Holders of public office should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might influence them in the performance of their official duties.

Objectivity

In carrying out public business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits, holders of public office should make choices on merit.

Accountability

Holders of public office are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office.

Openness

Holders of public office should be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions that they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands this.

Honesty

Holders of public office have a duty to declare any private interests relating to their public duties and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest.

Leadership

Holders of public office should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.