

Information on a Governing Board

Background

School governors are one of the country's largest voluntary groups with around 345,000 school governors contributing to strategic development and raising standards of achievement at over 30,000 schools.

Responsibilities

The governing body carries out its functions with the aim of taking a largely strategic role in the running of the school. This includes:

- setting up a strategic framework for the school
- setting aims and objectives for the school
- agreeing policies and targets for achieving the objectives
- reviewing progress and reviewing the strategic framework in the light of progress
- ensuring accountability to stakeholders

The governing body acts as a "critical friend" to the head teacher by providing support and challenge. The head teacher is responsible for the day-to-day, management and control of the school and the implementation of the strategic framework established by the governing body. The governors and head teacher work together in partnership to raise standards in the school.

The governing board has considerable discretion as to how to discharge its responsibilities but is required to constitute itself in line with the regulations and to appoint a chair and vice chair. The governing board may delegate certain of its responsibilities to certain governors or committees of governors, although in general, it is not compelled to do so.

Roles and Actions

There are a range of roles and actions that the governing board or individual governors need to consider:

- **Constitution of the Governing Board**

The governing board must be constituted in line with the School Governance

(Constitution) (England) Regulations 2003. These regulations cover the number and type (category) of governors that make up the governing board.

- **Terms of Reference of the Governing Board**
- **Categories of Governors**

There are several types of governors; they are:

- **Parent governors:** parents and carers of pupils at the school are eligible to stand for governorship at the school. Parent governors are elected by other parents at the school. If insufficient parents stand for election, the governing body can appoint parent governors.
- **Staff governors:** both teaching and non-teaching staff are eligible for staff governorship. Staff governors are elected by the school staff and must be paid to work at the school - volunteers are not eligible. The head teacher is a member of the governing body by virtue of his/her office and counts as a member of the staff category.
- **Authority governors:** LA governors are appointed by the Local Authority. In Derbyshire, the County Council is the appointing body.
- **Community governors:** community governors are appointed by the governing body to represent community interests, including the business community.
- **Foundation governors:** foundation governors are appointed by the school's founding body, usually diocese or trust. If the school has a religious character the foundation governors must preserve and develop this.
- **Sponsor governors:** persons who give substantial assistance to the school, financially or in kind, or who provide services to the school can be appointed by the governing body as sponsor governors.
- **Associate members:** the governing body can appoint associate members to attend full governing body meetings in a non-voting capacity. Associate members may serve on one or more governing body committees with limited voting rights.

At the Federation of All Saints and St. Margaret's we have a friendly and professional Governing body that compliments the friendliness and professionalism of the staff within the Federation.

Our ethos, as guardians of the schools within the Federation, is to give positive support and assistance to ensure that the high standards already achieved by the schools are maintained and improved upon.

If you would like any more information about our Governing Body or becoming a Governor you can contact a member of the Governing Body via the school office.