



PARENT GOVERNORS

We are looking to appoint a Parent Governor.

Would you be interested in finding out more?

Please come and talk to Miss Lavelle if you have any questions
about this role.



The Governing Board at Mereworth Community Primary School

Our governing board is made up of 2 parent governors, 1 Head Teacher governor, 1 staff governor, 1 Local Authority governor, and 8 co-opted governors.

Our governing board meets three times a year. Governors visit the school at least once a term to monitor the progress towards our goals. We have the following committees, which meet every term:

- Finance and Resources
- Teaching and Learning

Chair of governors: Mrs Pam Conibeer

Vice-chairs of governors: Mrs Alison Currie & Mrs Liz Windon

Clerk to the governing body: Mr Adam Blakemore

What is the Role of the Governing Board?

The governing body is responsible in law for the school, but it has a strategic role and doesn't get involved in operational matters like teaching and learning or timetabling - these are the responsibility of the Head Teacher.

The governing body hold the Head Teacher to account for her decisions by monitoring and asking the right questions. This often includes visiting the school to look at specific areas, like safeguarding, behaviour or resources.

The governing body also oversee the financial performance of the school and makes sure its money is well spent.

The Governing Body, in partnership with the Head Teacher and the Senior Leadership Team:

- Helps to decide the priorities for improving the school, and
- Monitors educational performance of the school and its pupils

What is The Role of a Parent Governor?

A parent governor is a representative of parents and not a delegate of parents. Parent governors provide a "parental viewpoint" to the work of the Governing Body.

The parent governor's role is the same as that of any other governor. No specific duties are attached to it. All governors take on different roles by agreement as part of the work of the Governing Body.

A governor is expected to act in the interests of the whole school, and not simply to represent the interests of his/her child. Sometimes it can be difficult to separate any personal issues or experiences from those of being a governor. Parent governors should deal with personal issues in the same way as any other parent and not through their role as governor.

Key points to being a good Parent Governor

- Attend in-service training (INSET) sessions, especially the induction for new governors.
- Prepare for meetings by reading papers beforehand and make a note of anything you want clarified or to ask questions about.
- Regularly attend meetings.
- Maintain confidentiality - anything said in governor meetings must not be discussed outside of the meeting.
- Make yourself available to parents, listen to other parents' opinions and take account of them as you contribute to governors' decisions.
- Keep the parental perspective in mind. Approach every issue with the question "What do I as a parent think about this? What would other parents think about this?"
- Guide parents about appropriate lines of action and procedure for example, listen impartially to concerns raised, ask them to put their concern in writing or speak to the Head Teacher. This is the correct procedure, and helps to clarify things and enables the school to address any concerns.
- If you have an issue concerning your child, remember that you are acting as a parent only - leave your governor hat at home!

Frequently Asked Questions

How much time does it take?

There are 3 full governor body meetings per year, to which all governors are expected to attend. These last about 2 hours. In addition there are committee meetings each term (Finance and Resources, Teaching and Learning). For all these meetings there are papers to read, notes to be made and questions prepared.

Governors are expected to make at least one monitoring visit per year (which is normally a morning or afternoon session), as well as attend school events, where possible. They are also expected to undertake training.

Do governors get paid?

No. All governors are volunteers.

How do I become a governor?

Please do not hesitate to contact the school to register an interest.

What skills do I need?

The following would be helpful:

- Good communication skills, including being able to discuss sensitive issues tactfully
- Being able to maintain confidentiality at all times
- Basic IT skills (i.e. word processing and email)
- Good basic education e.g. in literacy and numeracy
- Ability, time, and willingness to learn and develop the skills required to contribute to effective governance.

Where to go for more information?

Ask to meet with the Chair of Governors and Head Teacher

For additional information

For more information on the role of the governing board, see the government's Governance Handbook.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/governance-handbook>