

Governing Bodies

Becoming a School Governor

To become a School Governor, you will need to ensure that those who have a vote, or who appoint Governors, know about your interest!

School Governors are:

- Volunteers from all walks of life
- People who have an interest in education and care about children playing their full part of citizens of the future
- Members of a team, supporting their school
- People who wish to help their school to develop as a centre of the local community
- People who may have particular skills and abilities who can work in partnership with the school, the Governing Body and school managers
- People with enthusiasm and commitment - good common sense always helps

School Governors are people like You!

Governor Categories

- A Parent Governor - Is elected by and from the parent body at the school.
- A Staff Governor - Is employed at the school in either a teaching or non-teaching capacity, and is elected by the teaching or non-teaching staff as applicable.
- A Foundation Governor - Is nominated/appointed by the Church or Foundation that links with the school.
- A Community Governor - Is invited to join the Governing Body if they have particular skills, abilities or links with the school or the Community it serves.
- An Authority Governor - Is appointed by the Local Authority in line with published criteria (they are not political appointments).

What do School Governors do?

Governors work as a team to:

- promote high standards of educational attainment at their school
- set targets for pupil achievement
- take general responsibility for the conduct of the school
- manage the school's budget , including deciding how many staff will work there
- make sure that the National Curriculum is delivered via a broad and balanced provision
- report on pupils' achievement in National Curriculum assessments and examination results
- act as a 'critical friend' to the school
- be prepared to undertake training and develop their role
- participate in the appointment of senior staff (including appointing the Head Teacher) and regulate staff conduct and discipline ; and
- draw up an action plan after an inspection by the Office of Standards in Education (OfSTED)

Why do Schools Need Governors?

Every school has a Governing Body to represent the local community - "the stakeholders" in the running of our schools. School Governors bring external support perspectives from ordinary life and the staff, and the Local Authority to help secure the best possible education for the children in the school. They have important responsibilities like managing the school budget, overseeing the curriculum and appointing staff.

Support for new School Governors

On appointment all new Governors will receive an induction pack and a copy of the Local Authority's termly training directory, which will include:

- an induction course for new Governors covering roles and responsibilities
- training courses on a wide range of subjects to increase knowledge and personal skills and abilities
- advice, support and guidance from the Governor Support Team and helpline at the Local Authority
- support from the Head Teacher and Chairperson of the Governing Body
- access to the Department for Education support materials, courses and conferences
- Information about courses and 'How To Apply'

All Governing Bodies in the Borough buy into the St.Helens Governor Training Scheme. All of our latest courses and governor training application forms are available in a termly Governor training directory.

How long do School Governors serve?

School Governors normally serve a term of office lasting up to four years but can of course resign at any time.