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**Parent Governors**

Parent governors are elected by other parents at the school. Any parent, or carer, of a registered pupil at the school at the time of election is eligible to stand for election as a parent governor. Parent governors may continue to hold office until the end of their term of office even if their child leaves the school.

Schools must make every reasonable effort to fill parent governor vacancies through elections. The Regulations, however, make provision for the governing body to appoint parent governors where:

* not enough parents stand for election,
* at least 50% of the registered pupils at the school are boarders and it is not reasonably practicable to elect, or
* in the case of community special or foundation schools established in a hospital, the governing body judges that an election is impractical.

Governing bodies may only appoint as a parent governor a parent who has, in their opinion, the skills to contribute to effective governance and the success of the school.

A parent governor believes that parents should have a say in matters affecting their children’s education.

You should meet the relevant statutory eligibility criteria for school governors as set out in the Regulations and agree to DBS checks as required and you will have:

* an interest in all the children’s futures
* a desire to make a difference
* a willingness to accept responsibility
* an ability to work in a team, ask questions, listen and learn

As a parent governor you hold the unique position of having a parental viewpoint. Through the children you will have first-hand experience of the curriculum and how the school is perceived from the consumers’ point of view. You will be able to bring this perspective to the strategic management of the school.

As a parent governor you do not have to vote in a particular way because you have been pressed to do so by parents. Objectivity, however, is essential. You are not there to promote the interests of your own children but all children. Parent governors are elected by other parents and it is important to establish a rapport with the parental body that elected you, whilst continuing to maintain a strategic approach to school governance.

You are disqualified from being elected or appointed as a parent governor if you are an elected member of the local authority or are paid to work at the school for more than 500 hours in any twelve consecutive months.

**As an effective parent governor you:**

* help to decide the priorities for improving the school
* make yourself available to parents and listen to other parents’ opinions and take account of them as you contribute to governors’ decisions
* work in partnership with the headteacher, senior leadership team and cooperatively with other governors to raise standards and improve outcomes for all children
* prepare for meetings by reading papers beforehand
* take responsibility for your own learning and development as a governor including attending training
* attend full governing body and relevant committee meetings promptly, regularly, and for the full time
* read briefings and newsletters for governors; present a balanced view of issues representing different sections of the community
* promote the interests of the school in the wider community
* be loyal to the decisions made by the governing body
* respect the confidentiality of governing body affairs
* never promise to ‘solve a problem’ on your own
* never press your own child’s case at the expense of others
* declare an interest and withdraw from any meeting where you, a partner or close relative or associate stands to gain, or where you are so close to a matter discussed it is difficult to be impartial
* have regard to the broader responsibilities as a governor of a public institution in regard to promoting accountability for the actions and performance of the governing body

**Principles of public life**

1. **Integrity:** do not allow the influence of bodies outside the school to affect your duties

2. **Accountability:** make choices on merit

3. **Objectivity:** submit to appropriate scrutiny

4. **Openness:** only restrict information when the public interest clearly demands this/ data protection

5. **Honesty:** declare any private interest

6. **Leadership:** promote and support these principles by leadership and example

7. **Selflessness:** act always in the public interest, not for personal gain