



Being a school governor

Time commitment

The term for a co-opted governor is four years. There are five full governing body meetings per year, which all governors are expected to attend. The times and dates vary and are set a year in advance. There are also committee meetings each term (Finance, Personnel and Premises, Curriculum Standards and Welfare) and we ask all governors to be a member of at least one of these. These meetings are all held after the school day finishes and child care is provided when necessary.

Training

You would be expected to complete the governor induction programme provided by the local authority. There are also other training courses you can attend as required and there are online learning modules you can undertake in your own time. We do encourage our governors to attend training courses as an effective way of keeping in touch with changes in education and as support for performing effectively and beneficially as governors. We are immensely fortunate in having the Governor Support team at Brighton & Hove who are very supportive and always ready to help and advise.

The governing body

Our governing body is made up of members of different stakeholder groups (parents, staff, community, and local authority). When all vacancies are filled, we will have 14 governors (the Headteacher, 2 elected parent governors, 1 elected staff governor, 1 local authority appointment and 9 co-opted governors) Governors contribute to the work of the governing body in raising standards of achievements for all pupils. This involves providing a strategic view for the school, acting as a critical friend and ensuring accountability.

Co-opted Governors

The government has recently required all governing bodies to reconstitute and the introduction of co-opted governors is aimed at enabling governing bodies to ensure that they have the right skills coverage and a fair representation of the ethnic demographic served by the school.

Governor responsibilities

- Developing the strategic plan for the school
- Determining aims, policies and priorities for the school
- Setting statutory and non-statutory targets
- Monitoring and evaluating the work of the school
- Appointing staff and ensuring the implementation of personnel procedures
- Managing the school budget
- Securing high levels of attendance and good standards of pupil behaviour
- Ensuring that all children in the school have access to a broad and balanced curriculum which is suitable to age, aptitude and ability, preparing them for adult life
- Ensuring the health and safety of pupils

Tasks include:

- Getting to know the school: its needs, strengths and areas for development
- Attending meetings (full governing body, committees and working groups)
- Working as a member of a team
- Speaking, acting and voting in the best interests of the school
- Representing the perspectives of stakeholder groups, as appropriate
- Respecting all governing body decisions and supporting them in public
- Acting within the framework of the policies of the governing body and legal requirements
- Attending training and developing opportunities appropriate to role