



Governor Vacancies: Interested in learning more?

Thank you very much for showing interest in becoming a governor for our school. We think you will find it a very rewarding and stimulating role. Our current governors have told us that, once they've settled in (and that first meeting can be daunting, meeting so many new people who all seem to know what they're doing!), they've found their feet remarkably quickly and have felt that they have a lot to contribute. They feel welcomed and valued by the other governors and by the school.

We currently have two vacancies for co-opted places on Bevendean Primary School's Governing Body (GB), the team that helps to lead the school and supports the Headteacher and his staff in their work with our pupils and the school community.

Having reconstituted the GB last year, we have been identifying the skills and experience we would ideally like to find in the people who take on these roles.

So, what is the role of a Governor?

Governors make a significant contribution to the 'strategic development' of the school - where the school is heading, what it is up to and why, and how it can achieve what it wants to achieve for the good of all of the pupils. As a governor you can make a very positive contribution and ensure that the school goes from strength to strength.

The GB, when complete, is a group of fourteen people committed to supporting the school, improving standards and enhancing education for our children.

Governors should commit to a four-year term of office and must expect to give a certain amount of time to fulfil the role effectively. We currently hold 18 governor meetings each year, 5 of which are Full Governing Body meetings, while the rest are committee meetings. Each governor is expected to be a member of at least one of our two committees (Curriculum and Welfare Committee / Finance, Personnel and Premises Committee), each of which meet 5 or 6 times during the year. Papers for all meetings are circulated beforehand, so there is time to get familiar with the topics that are coming up and ask any questions in advance, also to prepare questions you might wish to raise in the meeting. Governors are encouraged to participate as much as they can during the meetings; however we recognise that contributions can be made in different ways – you do not have to be an expert at anything to join us.

It is important that you consider very carefully before you commit yourself – while we don't want, in any way, to put you off, we do need you to understand the commitment we expect from our governors, in terms both of time and involvement with the school and its development. In order to be effective in the role, you will need, obviously, to attend meetings, but also, crucially, to find time to visit the school and become familiar and at home with its ethos and activities.

Training is offered, through the Local Authority, in all aspects of being a governor, with initial induction being a requirement of the role – times for this vary to enable people to attend when it suits their individual timetables.

Any of our current governors will be happy to talk to you if you want to explore on a more personal level before you reach a decision. You will find their names in the governors' section of the school website and, if you wish, you may send an e-mail to one (or more) of them, c/o the Clerk's address (glenysharriesrees@bevendean.brighton-hove.sch.uk), which will be forwarded for you.

We must inform you that when a governor is eventually appointed, he/she is subject to a Disclosure and Barring Service check (criminal record check) and also must complete a 'Declaration of Suitability' to be a governor.

So, what are we looking for?

Below is a list of the skills and experience we are looking to add to our governing body. It looks pretty daunting but we are obviously not expecting any one person to be able to offer all of these! A willingness to acquire certain skills through training would be a decided plus, while a wholehearted commitment to support the school is an absolute must. Anything else is a bonus!

Leadership experience

Budget experience – either setting, managing, understanding

Ability to analyse

Ability to speak up

Preparedness to challenge

Willingness to learn

Ability to communicate

Teamworking

Where do we go from here?

If you're still interested and you think you've got something to offer us, please e-mail Glenys, our Clerk to Governors, on glenys_ebeaz@hotmail.com (please note, there is an underscore between "glenys" and "ebeaz"), or ask the school for a pack which includes more information as well as an application form and accompanying paperwork, or go to our website:

www.bevendean.eschools.co.uk and look for Governor Recruitment in the Governors section.

If you decide to apply, please complete the application form and return it to the school – we'll have a look at it and then invite you for an interview where we can explore together whether we have a "good match" or not – you can see what's what, get the feel of the school and see if you like it, and we can assess how you might fit into the current team.

Do hope we'll hear from you.