



Brighouse High School

Being a School Governor - Useful Information

Being a school governor is a challenging but hugely rewarding role. It will give you the chance to make a real difference to young people, give something back to your local community and use and develop your skills in a board-level environment. You will also be joining the largest volunteer force in the country: there are over a quarter of a million volunteers governing state funded schools in England.

Becoming a School Governor can be extremely rewarding but it isn't for everyone. Quite often people don't know what a School Governor is, does, what is expected of them or what time commitments are required. To try and help you make this decision we have put together some basic information that we hope will help.

The Brighouse High School Ethos:

We value and are proud to be a comprehensive school serving our local community. Our core purpose is to raise achievement for all and to do this within a framework of positive behaviour. We consistently strive to ensure that BHS is a happy place to learn and work and that there is equality of opportunity for all.

What is a Governing Body?

The role of the Governing Body is to work alongside the Headteacher and senior school leaders to manage the school at a strategic level, with a view to providing the best possible education and educational opportunities for all the pupils and the best environment for staff to work. This involves:

- Setting the strategic direction for the school
- Taking corporate decisions in relation to the statutory functions of the Board of Governors
- Ensuring that resources are effectively controlled and managed.

What is a School Governor?

The Governing body is made up of representatives from **parent** and **school staff** along with the Headteacher. Senior leaders often attend meetings on behalf of the school. Governors who do not have a direct link with the school are invited to be part of the Governing Body due to their experience, these are called **co-opted** or **appointed** governors. A good governing body will have people from a range of backgrounds and with a range of skills. Whilst there is no 'ideal' candidate, a governor should be:

Committed

Devoting the required time and energy to the role and ambitious to achieve best possible outcomes for young people. Prepared to give time, skills and knowledge to developing themselves and others in order to create highly effective governance.

Confident

Of an independent mind, able to lead and contribute to courageous conversations, to express their opinion and to play an active role on the board.

Curious

Possessing an enquiring mind and an analytical approach and understanding the value of meaningful questioning.

Challenging

Providing appropriate challenge to the status quo, not taking information or data at face value and always driving for improvement.

Collaborative

Prepared to listen to and work in partnership with others and understanding the importance of building strong working relationships within the board and with senior leaders, staff, parents and carers, pupils/students, the local community and employers.

Critical

Understanding the value of critical friendship which enables both challenge and support, and self-reflective, pursuing learning and development opportunities to improve their own and whole board effectiveness.

Creative

Able to challenge conventional wisdom and be open-minded about new approaches to problem solving; recognising the value of innovation and creative thinking to organisational development and success

What can I expect?

All new governors will undergo an induction process, which introduces them to the basics of the school and about being a governor. We will provide you with range of resources to allow you to learn more at your own pace, as well as offering you access to a wide range of training resources (face to face, online training and reading). You may be introduced to a more experienced governor who can act as your mentor or point of contact for questions if you require.

What is expected of me?

We hold at least one full Governing Body meeting each term (3 per year) which normally take place on a Monday at 6pm and which we aim to complete in around 2 hours. You will need to prepare for these meetings by reading materials sent to you typically a week before. In addition, we have a Finance committee which also meets each term for a similar amount of time and pre meeting preparation time.

Some governor activities take place in school time, such as interviewing, school presentations and events. We appreciate that some governors may not be available during the day, however some employers will allow you time off for being a governor. The more availability you have, the wider the range of activities that will be available for you to participate in.

Interested but still have questions?

Please contact Kath Jackson at school, who can arrange for someone from the governing board to speak to you.