



Are you thinking about becoming a School Governor ?

So what is a school governor? Well, the answer is simple ... it is someone just like you!

School governors are people from all walks of life and ethnic background, who have an interest in education and who want to make sure their school is providing the right environment for children to learn and develop as individuals. You do not need to be an educational expert to become a governor, in fact, whether you work in offices, shops, restaurants, are self employed, retired or perhaps are a full time parent, everyone has their own skills, experience and knowledge which combined provides a well balanced contribution and range of perspectives to the governing body.

Could you make a difference?

The role of governors is crucial to the effective leadership and management of the school. Governance can be extremely rewarding and stimulating and provides an opportunity to do something positive and unique by making a difference to the young children within our community.

As part of a larger team, a governor can develop new skills (or practise existing ones) like chairing meetings, speaking in public and working in committee(s). They monitor and evaluate the school's effectiveness by asking challenging questions, promoting and supporting the school, staff and its pupils. Ultimately, a governor is a "critical friend" to the Headteacher.

Day to day management of the school is the responsibility of the Headteacher, but governors work closely with them to make key decisions vital to the successful running of the school including decisions which directly affect the education and well being of the children.

The functions of the governing body fall into three key areas:-

1. to develop in conjunction with the Headteacher, the overall direction for the school thus securing high standards of achievement and value for money
2. to ensure the school is accountable for its decisions and actions
3. to develop a supportive and challenging relationship with the school to promote continuous improvement

How much time is involved in being a governor?

This very much depends upon how much time the governor is prepared to give. The governing body meets at least once a term. Governors are also expected to serve on a sub-committee responsible for a particular area of work such as finance, curriculum, children's well being, premises etc. Again, these sub-committees meet at least once a term. The majority of meetings are held in the evenings although governors should be prepared to attend the occasional meeting or event during the working day.

Are there any special requirements?

Just a dedication to raising the standards of education, a willingness to learn and ask questions, the ability to work as part of a team and appreciate the views and contributions of others, have plenty of enthusiasm and understand the need for confidentiality. There are however some legal requirements surrounding people who work with children - details are available upon request.

If you would like to know more about becoming a school governor, please contact Claire New, Headteacher [or the Chair of Governors] at the following address:

East Preston Infant School, Lashmar Road, East Preston, West Sussex, BN16 1EZ