

WHO ARE PARENT GOVERNORS?

Parent Governors are elected by parents of children at the school. For a person to stand for election and to vote in a Parent Governor Election s/he must have parental responsibility for a child who is a registered pupil at the school.

If there are insufficient eligible candidates for the vacancies at an election the Governing Body can appoint a Parent Governor, but there are restrictions on who can be appointed.

Parent Governors, like all Governors, serve for four years. Governors are subjected to clearance through the Disclosure and Barring Service. If a Parent Governor ceases to be the parent of a child registered at the school within the four year period, s/he may continue to be a Governor for the rest of his/her term of office.

WHAT ARE PARENT GOVERNORS?

All maintained schools Governing Bodies have at least one Parent Governor.

Parent Governors have the same rights, responsibilities and duties as other Governors.

Parent Governors should play a full and active part in the Governing Body but,

Parent Governors, like other Governors, do not have the power to act as individuals or as a group unless specifically authorised to do so by the Governing Body.

Parent Governors are not on the Governing Body simply to represent the interest of parents, or to be the only link with parents because all Governors must have regard to these issues.

WHAT DO GOVERNORS DO?

All maintained schools have a Governing Body which together with the Headteacher sets the aims and policies of the school. The Headteacher is responsible for the day to day management of the school. Together the Governing Body and Headteacher must ensure the school provides good quality education and helps to raise standards.

The Governing Body:-

- is accountable for the performance of the school to the parents and the wider community
- plans the school's future direction
- selects the Headteacher
- makes decisions on the school's budget and staffing
- makes sure the National Curriculum is taught
- decides how the school can encourage pupils' spiritual, moral and cultural development
- makes sure the school provides for all its pupils, including those with special educational needs.

HOW MUCH TIME WILL IT TAKE?

To be an effective member of the Governing Body team takes time. You will need to prepare for and attend at least one full Governing Body meeting per term. You will also be involved in one or two committees dealing with finance, staffing, curriculum, premises or other matters. These usually meet at least once a term.

In addition, some governors take on other roles such as Special Educational Needs, Literacy or Numeracy Governor.

The amount of time you will need to give depends on how involved you become, but Governing Bodies cannot operate effectively with passengers. You must be prepared to take more than an interest.

WHAT SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE?

Sefton LA and the associated Dioceses/Church Authorities provide a wide range of support services and training for Governors.

There is a termly Newsletter which helps to keep Governors up to date with recent developments.

Sometimes Governing Bodies have difficult decisions to take. In such cases the Governing Body has access to support and advice from the LEA and the Diocesan Authorities as appropriate.

If you require more information about being a Governor speak to the Headteacher or telephone the Training & Governor Services Unit 0151 934 3330/3331/3341/3344/3353.

GROUNDINGS FOR DISQUALIFICATION FROM MEMBERSHIP OF A GOVERNING BODY

1. A person who is under the age of 18.
2. A person who is adjudged bankrupt or whose estate has been sequestered or who has made a composition or arrangements with his/her creditors and who has not been discharged.
3. A person convicted within the last five years of any offence resulting in a sentence of imprisonment (whether suspended or not) for a period of three months or more without the option of a fine.
4. A person convicted within the last twenty years of any offence resulting in a sentence of imprisonment for a period of two and a half years or more.
5. A person convicted of any offence resulting in a sentence of imprisonment for a period of five years or more.
6. A person convicted within the last five years of an offence under Section 547 of the Education Act 1996 (nuisance or disturbance on school premises and grounds) and sentenced to a fine.
7. A governor who, without the consent of the governing body, fails to attend meetings for a continuous period of six months beginning with the date of the first meeting missed.
8. A person who is detained under the Mental Health Act 1983.
9. A person subject to disqualification under the Company Directors' Disqualification Act 1986 or under the Insolvency Act 1986.
10. A person removed from the office of Charity Trustee by the Charity Commissioners or High Court on the grounds of misconduct or mismanagement.
11. A person who has not received satisfactory clearance through the Disclosure and Barring Service.
12. A person disqualified under the Education Act 1996 from being the proprietor of an independent school or from being a teacher or other employee in any school.