

# THE GOVERNOR ROLE

Anyone aged 18 or over and living in the UK can be a governor.

Governors do not manage a school day-to-day, but are required to oversee its long-term development.

Ultimately, all governor responsibilities come back to this task and can be split into three core roles:



**Ensure accountability**  
Asking the difficult questions and guaranteeing the school is responsible for its actions.

**A champion of success**  
Using your skills and experience to support the school in achieving its aims and recognising good performance.



**Establish a strategic framework**  
Helping to set the school's aims and objectives.

**Monitor and evaluate progress**  
Analysing decisions: are they producing the desired results?



**Allocate and control the school budget.**  
From extra staff training to investing in new buildings or equipment.

**Appoint senior staff.**  
Including the responsibility of appointing a new Deputy Head or Head Teacher.

## **I'm not a parent**

You don't need to have children or be a parent of a child at the school to become a school governor.

## **Time commitment**

The average time commitment is 10-15 hours per term. This includes meetings, background reading and school visits.

School governors are like magistrates or members of a jury and therefore have a right to reasonable time off work for their public duties (this may be unpaid). Check with your H.R. department for your company's policy.

## **Term of office**

School governors have a term of office of four years. However, as a volunteer you can resign at any time if your circumstances change.

## **Training**

Governing bodies rely on a variety of experiences and perspectives. No prior knowledge is required. Training and support is available for new and existing governors and is free of charge. We recommend all new governors attend a governor induction programme.

## **Different types of governor**

Governing bodies have representatives of school staff, the local authority, parents and members of the community. Despite representing different groups, all governors have exactly the same role and voting rights. If you are confused by any of the terminology we are always on hand to explain in more detail and help you understand your role.

## **The legal stuff**

Responsibility for actions and decisions lies with the governing body as a whole and not with individual members. In addition the governing body is required by law to be covered by an insurance policy.