

Governing Body information

The role of the school governor is absolutely vital. School governors form the largest voluntary force in the country and the influence they have over the development of children's education is immense. All schools rely on the willingness and goodwill of governors to give of their free time to help schools develop policy and implement developmental ideas.

A Governor's role can be described as being the critical friend of the school. Whilst being strong supporters and advocates of the school and willing conduits of information between the wider community and the school, it is essential that the Governing Body acts impartially in scrutinising the work of the school and bringing a parental, business and community perspective to the educational planning process.

A key part of the role is to help with the medium and long-term planning process. The development of a strategic plan is a shared responsibility of the Governors and the school community. The Governing Body works closely with the Headteacher to achieve high standards for all your children, developing academic excellence and care for the individual child. Governors get to know their schools on a first-hand basis; will make decisions corporately which will influence and shape children's education; and, through their commitment, experience and skills, help schools to develop.

The kind of decisions that governors make will include the following: agreeing educational priorities with the Headteacher and the staff; deciding how the school budget should be allocated; sharing with the Headteacher and the staff responsibility for the school's curriculum; approving school policies; appointing school staff; preparing an annual report and holding a meeting with parents to discuss it.

The Instrument of Government provides for the Headteacher, four Parent Governors, one Staff Governor, one Local Authority Governor and nine Foundation Governors. Parent Governors are elected for a term of office of three years.

The Governing Body normally meets twice termly at 7.30pm. Apart from the full Governing Body, there are also a number of Committees with delegated authority. The Committees at JCoSS are as follows:

- Admissions
- Finance & Premises
- Inclusion
- Personnel
- Teaching & Learning

Governors will serve on at least one of these Committees in addition to the full Governing Body. Committee meetings normally take place termly.

Governors are encouraged to maintain strong links with teaching staff and to work with departments, visiting lessons (as observers), attending meetings and discussing issues with Heads of Departments. This might take place once or twice a year.

Governors are expected to give up some time to the following: Attending meetings of the Governing Body at least once a term; reading papers in preparation for these meetings; taking part in termly committee meetings, attending

annual strategy days; serving on appointments panels from time to time; attending school functions; attending training sessions.

A programme of support and development for governors will be made available for Governors.

Being a governor is a responsible, rewarding and sometimes time-consuming job. It is an opportunity to have direct involvement in your child's school, being part of a dedicated team, meeting new people and gaining fulfilment from helping young people. To help you make a decision on becoming a Governor, you may wish to speak to a current governor or to the Headteacher.

Further information on the role of Governors can be found in the Governance Handbook January 2017 and Competency Framework for Governors at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/governance-handbook>

Publicly available information – National Database of Governors required for the Get Information about Schools database <https://get-information-schools.service.gov.uk/>

The following information about maintained school governors, academy trust members, academy trustees and local governors will be published on the DfE-maintained website Get Information about Schools:

- Full name (including title)
- Appointing body (for example board, foundation, parents etc.)
- Date of appointment
- Date term of office ends (or ended, if this was in the last year)
- In **maintained schools**: whether he or she is the chair of governors or a member of the governing body
- In **academies**: whether he or she is a trust member, a trustee, the chair of trustees or, in the case of MATs, a local governor on a local governing body

Unpublished information held by the DfE

The DfE will also collect a direct email address for the chair, and governors':

- Postcodes
- Dates of birth
- Previous names
- Nationalities

This information will not be published. It will be stored securely on the system and access will be restricted to a small number of people who need it to fulfil their official responsibilities.