



Being a School Governor at QEGS

The governing body's main role is to help raise standards of achievement

School Governance is the most important volunteering role in education and an effective Governing Body is a source of enormous strength to a school. As such Governors are at the heart of how a school operates. It is important they get things right. How they do their job affects Students, staff and how the school is seen by parents and others in the community.

What Are The Responsibilities Of A School Governor?

School Governors make important collective decisions and the Governing Body is answerable to parents and the community. The Governing Body should have a strong focus on three core strategic functions:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its students, and the performance management of staff and
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent

Specific responsibilities include:

- helping to shape the school's future direction and setting the school's aims and values;
- promoting high standards of education and achievement;
- making sure the school provides for all of its students (including those with additional needs);
- deciding how the school can encourage students' spiritual, moral and cultural development;
- monitoring and reviewing the performance of the school;
- making decisions about the school's budget and staffing;
- appointing senior staff, including the Headteacher.

The day-to-day management of the school is the responsibility of the Headteacher.



Who Are The School Governors?

The Governing Body is made up of:

- Parent Governors: Elected by parents of students at the school
- Staff Governors: Elected by school staff
- Community Governors: Members of the local community appointed by the Governing Body
- Foundation Governors: People appointed by the relevant religious body or foundation trust
- Co-Opted Governors: People appointed by the Governing Body with particular areas of expertise

What Makes A Good School Governor?

Probably the most important quality is the desire to make a difference to children's lives, and then:

- ability to work in a team;
- desire to help the community;
- provide external perspective;
- demonstrate a willingness to challenge assumptions;
- the time to get involved.

What Do You Do As A School Governor?

All governors are expected to:

- attend and play an active part in meetings of the Full Governing Body (minimum of 6 per annum);
- be a member of one of the Committees (3-4 meetings per annum for each committee);
- be a member of staff interview panels;
- attend school events such school productions, Speech Night, Open days and major concerts. Governors are asked to attend at least two major events a year;
- undertake training as appropriate including pre Full Governing Body presentations, Time Out Strategy sessions (half a day), specific courses, time with a member of SLT on an area which is particularly relevant to the experience and interests of an individual governor;
- keep up to date with national policy and changes in the education sector, the regulatory framework including OfSTED and the law for governors;
- visit the school and participate in learning walks, and site inspections (at least twice a year).



In addition individual Governors may be asked to take a role in a number of other activities. In considering which of these Governors participate in, the particular expertise, experience and interests of individual Governors will be important:

- be a director of the Academy Trust;
- chair one of the Standing Committees;
- be a member of a working group other than a Standing Committee;
- take a lead role and work with the lead SLT member to assure the Governing Body on a particular area of responsibility such as Health and Safety, Safeguarding, etc;
- take a lead role in working with the SLT;
- play a leading role in the community to promote the school and represent it;
- participate in Disciplinary and Grievance procedures as appropriate;
- other activities as requested by the Chair and/or Headteacher in areas where they have particular expertise.

What Will You Get Out of Being A School Governor?

Being a Governor is an enormously challenging and rewarding opportunity. The personal benefits can be summarised as:

- a sense of satisfaction through knowing children will benefit from your efforts
- working with other committed people
- the opportunity to develop new skills and to strengthen existing ones
- the opportunity to gain understanding in key areas such as finance, personnel and strategic planning
- the opportunity to gain awareness of the education system as a whole.

Where Can I Get Additional Information?

There are a number of websites that can give you more information. These include:

DirectGov at www.direct.gov.uk

National Governors Association at www.nga.org.uk.