



## **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](http://www.direct.gov.uk)

National Governors Association at [www.nga.org.uk](http://www.nga.org.uk).