

## The Role of Parent Governors

All governors regardless of their constituency are elected or appointed with one common purpose – to govern the school in the best interest of pupils. Parent governors are no exception. They are not elected to represent their stakeholder group, but are elected in order to contribute to the work of the governing body in ensuring high standards of achievement for all children and young people in the school, contributing to strategic discussion, holding senior leaders to account by monitoring school performance and ensuring money is well spent.

Having board members who bring different perspectives and knowledge to the board strengthens it. Elections can provide a useful device for ensuring that not all members of the board are appointed and that those with different views are able to join the board. But irrespective of how governors are appointed, it is crucial that they are confident in their role, committed to asking challenging questions and equipped with the confidence to have the courageous conversations essential for good governance being achieved.

## Generic Governor Role Description

Governors work together to carry out their core functions:

1. ensuring there is clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
2. holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils and the performance management of staff
3. overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent
4. ensuring the voices of stakeholders are heard

Governors must also ensure that the governing body (known as the School Development Board in Marling) complies with all legal and statutory requirements. Governors should seek the advice of the clerk to the School Development Board and other professional advice as appropriate.

### Governing body strategic responsibilities

Governing bodies work closely with Headteachers and senior leaders. Headteachers are responsible for day to day management whereas the role of the governing body is strategic. As such, governors are responsible for:

- determining the mission, values and long-term ambitious vision for the school
- deciding the principles that guide school policies and approving key policies
- working with senior leaders to develop a strategy for achieving the vision
- ensuring that parents, pupils, staff and the wider community are involved, consulted and informed as appropriate
- ensuring that all pupils have access to a broad and balanced curriculum such that pupils are well prepared for the next stage of their education and adult life
- review the school's budget and ensuring it is managed effectively together with premises and other resources
- agreeing the school's staffing structure and keeping it under review to ensure it supports delivery of the strategy

- ensuring robust risk management procedures are in place and that risk control measures are appropriate and effective

### Monitoring and evaluating school performance

Governors must monitor the priorities that have been set to ensure progress is being made by:

- measuring the school's impact and progress towards its strategic objectives
- ensuring the required policies and procedures are in place and the school is operating effectively in line with these policies
- evaluating relevant data and feedback provided by school leaders and external reporting on all aspects of school performance
- asking challenging questions of school leaders in order to hold them to account
- holding the Headteacher to account for standards, financial probity and compliance with agreed policies
- visiting the school to monitor implementation of the strategy and reporting back to the board (this could be in a link governor capacity)
- ensuring that there are policies and procedures in place to deal with complaints effectively

### Contribution to the School Development Board

Governors should ensure that they are making a positive and meaningful contribution to the School Development Board by:

- attending meetings (There are 7 scheduled School Development Board meetings each year), reading papers and preparing questions for senior leaders in advance
- establishing and maintaining professional relationships with senior leaders and colleagues on the board
- undertaking induction training and developing knowledge and skills on an ongoing basis