

## **Role of the School Governor**

The central role of the school's governing body as stated in law is to:

***“Conduct the school with a view to promoting high standards of educational achievement at the school”***

Raising standards of pupil achievement through school improvement is the key purpose of school governance, and everything should be conducted with this in mind.

This is achieved in three main ways:

- **Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction**

Agreeing long term aims and vision of where the school wants to be now and in the future, understanding how to achieve these aims, and evaluating how effective the school is in delivering its vision.

- **Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the effective and efficient performance management of staff**

Monitoring and evaluating the school's effectiveness in terms of pupil achievement and the quality of teaching, challenging to support and promote improvements in educational performance, and ensuring that rigorous and high quality performance management is in place for all staff.

- **Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent**

Agreeing budget and expenditure priorities and monitoring delivery against plans, evaluating financial performance to ensure value for money and optimal deployment of resources.

Reference: Department for Education, Governors Handbook, March 2019

## **Governor Committees**

Governor committees are the mechanism for allowing governors to work in more detail than is practical at full governing body meetings, and for governors to focus on particular areas of interest and expertise.

The committee structure facilitates broad participation by governors and offers the opportunity to review, question and challenge the information provided by the school. Governor committees work within terms of reference agreed by the full governing body which may include delegated responsibility to review policies, targets, budgets, results and other areas. The committees meet to consider the issues within their individual remits, and make recommendations to the full governing body where actions are needed. The valuable work that committees do enables full governing body meetings to be well informed and more productive.

The St Ann's Heath governor committees are:

### ***Finance and Staffing Committee***

The Finance and Staffing committee has delegated responsibility for strategic oversight of the school's finances and for all staffing and personnel matters.

This committee receives regular reports on the current financial position of the school and is involved in formulating and approving the school budget and associated expenditure plans. This committee also agrees the annual staffing structure and considers the need for revisions and appointments. Policies relating to financial and staffing matters are the responsibility of this committee.

### ***Learning Committee***

The Learning Committee is responsible for ensuring that the needs of children both individually and collectively are met, including their academic and personal development.

This committee maintains a strategic overview of all matters relating to children's development through the school. The committee reviews the analysis of ongoing teacher assessment of pupil progress, evaluates the performance in each year's SATs results and agrees future targets. Policies relating to curriculum and developmental matters are the responsibility of this committee.

### ***Vision and Ethos Committee***

The Vision and Ethos Committee is responsible for upholding the wider values and characteristics of the school. These are things which are core to our school personality but which are not measured by test results. It includes : safeguarding and child protection, equality, inclusion and equal access, health safety and welfare, security, initiatives including Eco Schools and Healthy Schools, engaging with parents, carers and the wider community,

and publicising and promoting the school. Policies relating to these areas are the responsibility of this committee.

***Performance Management Committee and Pay Review Committee***

These two committees are specifically related to the areas of pay review and performance management.

## **Role of the Parent Governor**

Parents and carers of pupils are eligible to stand for election as governors. Parent governors are elected by other parents at the school are representative of parents, grandparents and carers in a non-political way. If insufficient parents stand for election, the governing body may appoint Parent Governors.

Parent Governors ARE:	Parent Governors ARE NOT:
✓ well placed to understand parents' views and to remind the governing body how matters being discussed affect parents	✗ expected to gather the views of other parents and take them to the governing body
✓ individuals - how you vote on any decision is up to you	✗ expected to vote as instructed by other parents
✓ in a good position to help the governing body communicate effectively with parents	✗ the only link between parents and the governing body
✓ equal in status to all other governors	✗ expected to represent only the interests of parents, the role is broad

Time required from parent governors includes preparing for and attending meetings, and time spent understanding how the school works so that governors can ask searching, relevant questions. Full governing body meetings are held on Wednesdays after school twice per term, and all governors are asked to join one of the committees which meet on a similar timeframe.

Beyond participation in meetings governors are expected to contribute to the wider work of the governing body to support and improve the school by participating in activities with school staff and other governors. This includes visits in school to monitor performance in selected areas with guidance from school leadership. The more active governors are in their roles, the more progress will be made and the more satisfaction gained.

All new governors are required to complete basic induction training including safeguarding and child protection courses. These are provided free of charge and typically take 3-4 half days or evenings in the first year of office. One of our experienced school governors will also support new governors during the induction period.

It is expected that governors will continue to develop their knowledge and experience by undertaking additional training specific to their roles and areas of interest. Classroom training is generally two hour sessions and there is a wide range of online training and internet based guidance and resources. For further details or specific questions please address via the school office.

***This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all members of the school and its community to demonstrably share this commitment.***

## **Governor Resources**

There are many online sources of information about school governance. The following links are just some of the sources available:

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/>

Department for Education

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/governance>

Department for Education School Governance site

[www.surreycc.gov.uk](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk)

Surrey County Council

<http://www.nga.org.uk/Home.aspx>

National Governors' Association

<http://www.babcock-education.co.uk/4S/>

Links to all Surrey Schools Support Services