

Governing body roles and responsibility

Why do we have governing bodies?

A Governing Body is a group of ordinary people overseeing the running of the school. Most governors are from the local community, but governing bodies usually include some governors who do not live locally but want to make a contribution to the school.

What do governors do?

As volunteers, governors have three main roles:

- To think about the future vision for the school and agree the school's plans and aims
- To act as a critical friend to the school, by challenging and supporting the headteacher and senior leadership team
- To be accountable for the school to parents and all stakeholders and to ensure accountability of the headteacher to the governing body

The responsibilities and powers are exercised in partnership with the headteacher and staff. School governors do not make individual decisions, but the Governing Body makes important decisions.

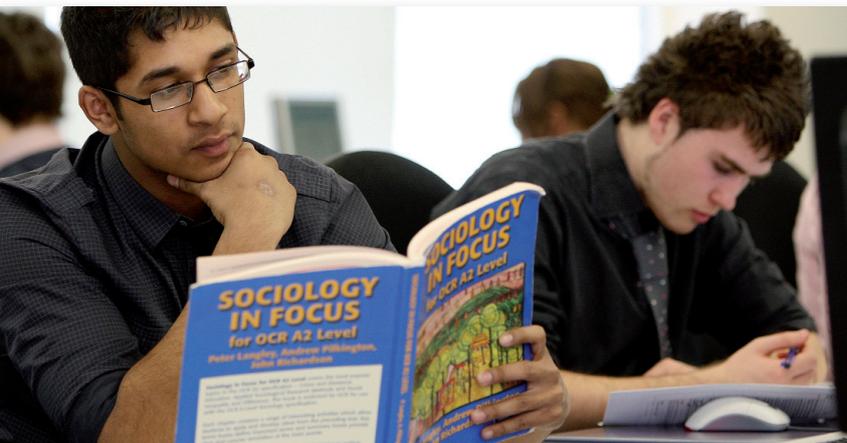


“Governors are there to help shape the school’s future direction and focus.”

Who can be a governor?

Governing Bodies can decide how many governors they want. This will depend on the way the Governing Body wants to undertake its role and its committee structure.

Governors can be parents, staff or members of the local community or church. Governors can also be appointed because they bring a specific skill the Governing Body may need to be effective



“School governors make a significant contribution to the well being of schools”

Governing body roles and responsibility

Why should I become a school governor?

Being a school governor is challenging and rewarding. You will be;

- contributing to the success of the school and its pupils
- playing a valuable role in your community gaining expertise in new areas
- working as a team to make a real difference for our children

You need to have enthusiasm, commitment and an interest in education.



What will be expected of you?

Governing bodies are legally required to meet at least once per term most meet more regularly than that. As a governor you will be expected to;

- attend regular meetings of the governing body
- attend appropriate training courses
- get to know the school

Training and support

As a governor you will develop new skills and strengthen existing ones! You will gain an understanding of the decision making process of school governing bodies and an awareness of the education system as a whole, by attending meetings and undertaking training and development opportunities on various aspects of the governor role.

How can I become a school governor?

If you are interested in becoming a governor, then getting involved and finding out more is easy;

- talk to someone who is a governor;
- contact the headteacher or Chair of Governors at your local school;
- contact West Berkshire Governor Services at the following address:

**West Street House,
West Street,
Newbury, RG14 1BZ
01635 519084 or**

email: governors@westberks.gov.uk

- visit our website:
www.westberks.gov.uk/governor