



Role of a Parent Governor

Why become a Parent Governor?

Joining the governing board is a great opportunity for you to make a positive impact on the future of Bournside, for all its students and stakeholders.

You don't need any prior experience in education, and you can gain a useful perspective on key issues in the sector. Undertaking the role can help you develop your skills, both personally and professionally.

Governors are involved in setting the strategic direction of the school, asking challenging questions in a professional manner and participating in discussions and decision-making. Induction resources and guidance are provided for new governors.

Your role

Parent governors are elected by fellow parents and carers of children registered at Bournside. Like any other school governors, parent governors have a strategic role. You will contribute to the work of the board in ensuring high standards of achievement for all children and young people in the school by:

- ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- holding executive leaders to account for the progress and educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the performance management of staff
- overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent.

The role is voluntary and is usually – but not exclusively – carried out after school hours. It involves preparation for and attendance at board and committee meetings, on panels, and at occasional events and training

Your responsibilities

A parent governor is not expected to have any prior in-depth knowledge of education. In order to perform the role well, you are expected to:

- get to know the school, including visiting the school occasionally during school hours with the agreement of the headteacher
- gain a good understanding of the school's strengths and weaknesses
- attend governor induction training and regular relevant training and development events
- attend meetings (full governing board meetings and committee meetings, see below) and read all the documents before the meeting
- act in the best interests of all the pupils of the school
- behave in a professional manner, as set down in the governing board's code of conduct, including acting in strict confidence
- uphold the seven 'Nolan principles' of public life: integrity, honesty, openness, accountability, objectivity, selflessness and leadership.

Time commitment

Being a governor can take around 20-30 hours of your time per academic year. A governor's term of office is usually four years. All members of the board attend five general board meetings per academic year. These are held after school and last approximately two hours. Preparation for these meetings is by reading and evaluating the relevant documents, which are distributed one week in advance.

In addition, the board has three key committees and several 'link' governors, with specific roles. New governors are appointed to one of the main committees, which entails a further five meetings a year, generally held in the early evening and lasting between one and two hours.

Eligibility

We encourage applications from all members of society, regardless of background, gender, ethnicity, disability, or age. To be eligible for the role of parent governor, however, applications should be the parent of (or exercise parental responsibility for) a registered pupil at Cheltenham Bournside School.

Applicants must also:

- be aged under 78
- agree to an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check (organised by the Clerk to the Governors once a governor is elected)
- agree to declare any relevant pecuniary/financial interests to ensure impartiality
- not have been declared bankrupt
- not be the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order or an interim order
- not have been disqualified from holding office as a governor
- not have been disqualified from being a company director and/or a charity trustee
- not have been removed as a trustee for a charity by an order made by the Charity Commission or the High Court on the grounds of misconduct or mismanagement in administration of the charity
- not have been convicted of a criminal offence (excluding any spent convictions, or any offences for which the maximum sentence was a fine).

Questions?

Please contact Clare Johnson, Clerk to the Governors: clerk@bournside.gloucs.sch.uk. Further information is available at [Governors for Schools](#) and [Gloucestershire County Council](#).