



Role of a Staff Governor

Why become a Staff Governor?

Joining the governing board is a great opportunity for you to make a positive impact on the future of Bournside. Your knowledge of educational issues and first-hand experience of the school will be an asset to the board.

Becoming a governor also helps you develop your skills, both personally and professionally. For example, you can gain an overview of how the school is managed and develop experience of strategic planning and financial decision-making. You'll be working with fellow governors from a range of professional backgrounds.

Your role

Governors are involved in setting the strategic direction of the school. They hold senior leaders to account by asking challenging questions in a professional manner and participating in discussions and decision-making.

The role is voluntary (unpaid) and is usually carried out after school hours. It involves preparation for and attendance at board and committee meetings, at occasional events and training. Induction information and guidance are provided for new governors.

Governors 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
- overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent.

Your responsibilities

As a member of the school's staff you bring valuable experience of the school and of the education sector to the board. This insight is an asset to the board and broadens its expertise.

In order to perform the role well, you are expected to:

- demonstrate 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 in preparation for, and attending, meetings. 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.

Questions?

Please contact Clare Johnson, Clerk to the Governors: clerk@bournside.gloucs.sch.uk.