



BEING A GOVERNOR AT FOUR MARKS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

What do school governors do?

A governor supports and works in partnership with the school at a strategic level, by:

- setting the school's vision and the strategy for achieving it.
- holding the Headteacher to account for educational and staff performance
- ensuring that the school's money is well spent.

They do **not** get involved in the day to day running of the school – that is for the Headteacher and the staff.

School vision, ethos and strategic direction	We work closely with the Headteacher and the Senior Leadership Team to determine the vision for Four Marks CE Primary School (our ambition for the school), and the strategy to realise that vision. The school team then develop an action plan to implement that strategy. We review progress against that plan and also review school policies to ensure that they are in line with the school vision and strategy (and comply with statutory requirements).
Holding the Headteacher to account for educational and staff performance	We assess the data on pupils' educational performance and staff performance and review how good it is compared to other schools. We also get involved in the Headteacher's Performance Management.
Ensuring the school's money is well spent	We look at the school's financial data, we approve the school's budget, and we ensure that the school's assets and financial resources are being used efficiently and in line with the school's strategic priorities and ask how can better value for money be achieved from the budget?

What sort of people become governors?

Anyone can become a parent governor if they have a child at the school. Some of our governors work full-time, some part-time, and others are not in paid employment. We welcome people with skills and expertise in relevant fields, particularly finance, personnel and data analysis, but the most important thing is having the time, enthusiasm and willingness to work with the school to make it as good as it possibly can be.

What is involved?

- **Meetings** - you will need to attend two full governing body meetings each term. You will be asked to serve on at least one committee which will meet once or occasionally twice a term. There may also be a small number of ad hoc meetings throughout the year. Most meetings are late afternoon or early evenings. It is possible to attend these meetings remotely.
- **Reading** - you will need to spend time prior to a meeting reading the papers and policies that will be discussed at during the meeting and to consider what questions you will want to ask the school team.
- **School visits** - you will usually have a specific area of responsibility which, where possible, links to your expertise and interest. Governors with a specific area of responsibility carry out monitoring visits (at least one a term), normally when pupils are in school, to test out the information we governors are given by the Headteacher and the staff and support the school's self-evaluation process.
- **Training** - you will be expected to undertake relevant training courses provided by Hampshire Governor Services. Much of the training can be carried out in the evening, but you will have to attend a one day induction course for new governors.
- **4 years** – the term of office will be for a minimum of four years, though you can sign on for another term at the end of that if you want, even if you no longer have a child still at school!

Do governors get paid?

No. Being a governor is a voluntary role but certain expenses (e.g. for childcare) can be claimed back.

How do I find out more?

See the Hampshire County Council's web page here:

www.hants.gov.uk/education/governors/governors-govrecruit.htm

The National Governors' Association website also tells you what being a Governor might involve: <http://www.nga.org.uk/Be-a-Governor.aspx>

Or contact Elliott Draper, Four Marks Primary School Chair of Governors