

School governors are people who want to make a positive contribution to children’s education.

Governors are one of the largest volunteer forces in the country and have an important part to play in raising school standards. The role of the governing body is absolutely key to the effectiveness of a school. Ofsted (the national inspection body for schools) has noted repeatedly that the most effective schools demonstrate effective leadership and management – including by the governing body.



What do Governors do?

School governors provide strategic leadership and accountability in schools.

- Governors appoint the head teacher and deputy head teacher.
- In some schools the governing body owns the site.
- The governors hold the main responsibility for finance in schools, and it is governors who work with the head teacher to make the tough decisions about balancing resources.
- Each individual governor is a member of a single governing body, which is established in law as a corporate body.
- Individual governors may not act independently of the rest of the governing body.
- Decisions are the joint responsibility of the governing body.

The role of the governing body is strategic and its key functions are to use the national curriculum and the advice and the standard provided by OFSTED.

- To identify and agree the aims and objectives of the school each year, looking for continual improvement in all the activities in the school
- To set agreed targets which will achieve those objectives, and to monitor the school progress against them throughout the year
- To take action as soon as it becomes clear that targets may not be met, or to revise and agree new targets when they are achieved
- To wholeheartedly support the Headteacher and the staff, but to act as a “critical friend” by constantly challenging the school to demonstrate and improve results and achievements