



# HAVE A SAY AS A PARENT GOVERNOR.

## **Why become a Parent Governor?**

What's the reward of being a Parent Governor at your child's school? Seeing the school and the children succeed.

## **What is a Parent Governor?**

Parent Governors are a core part of a School's Board of Governors.

Parent governors play a vital role on governing bodies, holding the unique position of having a parental viewpoint of the school. Through the children, they have a first-hand experience of the delivery of the curriculum, and how the school is perceived from the 'consumers' point of view. This enables parent governors to bring a different perspective to the strategic management of the school.

The role is voluntary (unpaid) and will appeal to you if you want to make a positive impact on your child's education and school life. The governor role has little interaction with the pupils, it is much more a "behind the scenes" one.

## **What does a School's Board of Governors consist of?**

As well as Parent Governors, a Board of Governors usually consists of:

- Staff Governors
- Local Authority Governors
- Co-opted Governors
- Associate Members.

## **What responsibility and influence do all Governors have?**

It is the Board of Governors role to:

- Appoint the Head Teacher.
- Appoint the Deputy Head Teacher.
- Hold the school Leadership to account.
- Ensure school staff have training, support and the resources to be effective.
- Maintain oversight of the school's budget spending, including Pupil Premium allocation.
- Decide on the aims, strategy, vision and ethos of the school.
- Determine ways to put all the above into practice as part of the School Development Plan.
- Hear the later stages of staff grievances, or pupil Exclusion appeals.

Responsibility for all this does not rest with any one Governor. Decisions are made by the Board as a whole. Individual governors are not held to account for collective decisions. The Board of Governors can also work with a school's PTA in building a 'whole school' community, connecting with the wider community and engaging prospective parents.

## **How big a commitment is being a Parent Governor?**

The Term of Office is usually for 4 years. It may be extended beyond your child's time at school. You will be expected to attend and contribute to the Full Governing Board's meetings, which are normally held once or twice a term and usually in the later afternoon/early evening.

Additionally, you will be expected to visit the school as part of your duties to monitor and evaluate as you gain understanding of your role and to take on training for the role through the Local Authority.

Under current Employment Law, employers must allow employees to undertake their duties at a school. You may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Clerk of the Governing Board.

### **What skills do Parent Governors need?**

If you are over 18 and have a child at Alfred Lord Tennyson School you can express an interest in becoming a Parent Governor for the school. Prospective candidates will be given as much information as possible about the responsibilities of the role before putting themselves forward for election. There is also a legal requirement for parents to be DBS checked before starting their post as a governor.

### **What is in it for parents?**

The experiences for School Governorship look great on any CV, you may learn new skills and work with others to help to develop useful policies which will benefit the education of children. Most people enjoy their time as a governor and appreciate the sense of duty and the opportunity to show loyalty to their school. You will get to know your child's school and will gain an understanding of how the school is run, which will have a positive impact on your child's education, academic outcomes, and school life.

### **How do you become a Parent Governor?**

If you are interested in becoming a Parent Governor, please contact the Chair of Governors or to the Head Teacher at Alfred Lord Tennyson School. You can express your interest through an introductory email.

EMAIL : [chair@alts.northants.sch.uk](mailto:chair@alts.northants.sch.uk) OR [head@alts.northants.sch.uk](mailto:head@alts.northants.sch.uk)

You can also visit the school's website for more information [alts.northants.sch.uk](http://alts.northants.sch.uk).

### **How are Parent Governors appointed?**

Parent Governors must stand for election. They are elected by other parents who can vote for candidates. Any parent with a child at the school is eligible to apply for the position of Governor, but there is no guarantee of being elected to the Board.

### **Conflicts of interest?**

Objectivity is essential to the role. Your role is to promote the best interest of all children at the school and not to use meetings to raise issues affecting your own child at the expense of others. Your duty is to maintain good relations and be available to other parents. Parent Governors represent parents by expressing their own views and not actively canvassing nor encouraging parents to directly liaise with them. It is not possible to stand as a Parent Governor if you are an elected member of your Local Authority, or if you are employed by the school.