

St Michael's CE Primary School

Role of School Governors

The role of the governing body is to provide confident, strategic leadership and to create robust accountability, oversight and assurance for the educational and financial performance of a school.

The three core functions of the governing board are:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.
- Holding executive leaders to account for the 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.

There are 2 parent governor vacancies currently available.

A parent governor is an elected non-foundation governor.

A parent governor is a representative and not a delegate of parents. Parent governors are elected by other parents and it is important to establish a rapport with the parental body that elected the candidate, whilst continuing to maintain a strategic approach to school governance.

Each candidate should be able to offer....

- Time
- A strong commitment to the role
- A willingness to learn
- "A listening ear"
- The ability to assimilate information, ask questions, make judgements and take decisions
- Flexibility
- Tact
- The ability to work as part of a team.

Governors are appointed to provide, among other things:

- Strong links between the school and the community it serves
- A wide experience of the outside world
- An independent view
- Accountability to the community for the use of resources and the standards of teaching and learning in the school.

What governors can expect to get back:

- The satisfaction of giving something back to the community
- A sense of purpose and achievement
- New skills, which may be useful elsewhere
- Training and support to help in fulfilling the governor role
- It is a great addition to your CV.
- Chance to improve and use transferrable skills.
- Representing other parents in the school.

Key Facts & Information

- School governors form the largest volunteer force in education.
- Approximately 1 in every 100 adults is a school governor.
- Average time commitment of 6-8 hours per month (during term time).
- National vacancy rate of 11% - approx. 40,000 empty governor seats.
- The term of office for a school governor at St Michael's is 4 years.
- There are three sub committees – Curriculum, Buildings & Finance and Staffing. Governors are expected to sit on one sub-committee and attend training as and when it is available. The training is free to governors and is usually provided by the Local Authority in the evening.

The skills and/or experience that is desirable in the new parent governors are as follows:

- An interest/experience of health & safety in the work place.
- Experience/interest in site management, budgets, finance.
- An interest in maths, English and/or Science.
- The flexibility to be able to go into school as a class governor (at least one visit per half term).
- Experience in the school environment.
- A willingness and flexibility to learn new skills.

Governor Person Specification Knowledge and Expertise

- A basic understanding of the UK state education system and schools.
- An understanding of the context, strengths and areas of development of the school.
- Awareness of the school's own priorities for improvement/development.
- Sound communication skills both in listening and expression.
- Ability to absorb and make use of a wide range of information and data.
- Specific skills to strengthen the skill base of the governing body and to lead one statutory area of responsibility.
- Ability to be impartial, and present a balanced view.
- Monitoring and evaluation skills.
- Ability to act as a 'critical friend'.
- A commitment to the vision and ethos of the school.
- Ensuring the best education outcomes for young people.
- Tact and diplomacy/an even temperament.
- Ability to work as a member of a team.
- Ability to respect confidentiality.
- A willingness to participate in training and self-evaluation.
- A purposeful, but approachable and outgoing character.

Please note that appointed candidates will need to receive approval from an Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS (E)) clearance check (organised through the school, no cost to the Governor).

All candidates must not otherwise be disqualified under Governing Body regulations and guidelines.

There are some legal restrictions on who can be a Governor (for example around bankruptcy and certain criminal offences), some of which are listed below. The full list can be seen under the following DfE link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/constitution-of-governing-bodies-of-maintained-schools>

General Grounds

- Registered pupils cannot be governors.
- A governor must be aged 18 or over at the time of election or appointment.
- A person cannot hold more than one governor post at the same school at the same time.

- Grounds that apply to particular categories of governor:
A person is disqualified from being a parent governor if they are an elected member of the LA or paid to work at the school for more than 500 hours (i.e. for more than one-third of the hours of a full-time equivalent) in any consecutive twelve month period (at the time of election or appointment).

A person is disqualified from being a local authority governor if they are eligible to be a staff governor at the school.

A person is disqualified from being a governor of a particular school if they have failed to attend the meetings of the governing body of that school for a continuous period of six months, beginning with the date of the first meeting they failed to attend. In addition, a breach of the confidentiality rules or breaking of the Governor Code of Conduct could also result in the governor being disqualified.