

The Role of the Parent Governor

The role of the Parent Governor is no different from those of other Governors. The three main functions of Governance are:

To contribute to the work of the Governing Body in ensuring high standards of achievement for all children and young people in the school by:

- Setting the school's vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils;
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money well spent.

Parent Governors are parents of a registered pupil at the school and are elected to the Governing Body by other parents. They are representative parents as opposed to representatives of parents and bring a parental perspective to the strategic discussion of the Governing Body. They help the Governing Body understand parents' viewpoint and maintain a link between the Governing Body and the parent community. They work alongside and with the other Governors on the Governing Body to ensure the Governing Body fulfils its duty to the children.

Parent Governors are part of a corporate body which means they cannot act individually. Governors make collective decisions and, for all of them, the school comes first, no matter whom they represent.

Responsibilities of Parent Governors in addition to those of all Governors include:

- Establish a rapport with the Parent Body;
- Listen impartially to concerns raised by parents';
- Communicate the parents' viewpoint;
- Help the Governing Body to understand parents' opinion and ensure the parent community is included in discussions;
- Maintain a link between the Governing Body and parent community;
- Advise parents on appropriate routes of action and procedures while not becoming personally involved

Governors are responsible for the progress and well-being of all the pupils and must act as in the interests of the whole pupil body. They must remain impartial and separate their role as a Governor from their role as a parent. They are not there to speak on behalf of individual parents' or raise individual parents' issues, which is a matter for the parent to pursue themselves through the school complaints procedure if necessary.