

Becoming a School Governor

School Governors are volunteers who are committed to making sure that a school provides the best possible education for its pupils. Governors come from a range of different backgrounds and bring different skills and expertise to the role. Governors act as a team to:

- Set the strategic vision of the school
- Hold the Head Teacher to account for the performance of the school
- Monitor progress towards the school's priorities and targets
- Agree and monitor the school budget to ensure money is well-spent

In addition to these functions governors also have specific responsibilities. These responsibilities include:

- Working effectively as a team and building effective relationships with the school leadership team
- Understanding the school and its community
- Ensuring that the required policies and procedures are in place
- Listening to and reporting back to stakeholders: pupils, parents, staff and the wider community
- Appointing and performance managing the head teacher
- Hearing final stage complaints and appeals about pupil exclusions

Governing Boards usually have two sub-committees. One focused on Finance and the other on Curriculum. You can also be a link governor for a specific area and get chance to meet the teacher in charge to find out more about this aspect of the school e.g. safeguarding, special educational needs.

Time Commitment

A Governor takes on a strategic role and does not get involved in the day to day running of the school. Governors should expect to spend approximately 10-20 days a year on their role. This would include:

- Attending governing body meetings, usually 3 to 6 per year
- Attending any sub-committee meetings they are involved in approximately
- Reading any papers circulated before meetings
- Undertaking any training or relevant research required
- Visiting the school as part of a programme of governor visits with a specific focus

Types of Governors

Governing Boards of Maintained/Local Authority schools normally consist of 10-12 governors. There are different types of governors: Parents, Staff, Local Authority, Co-opted governors (appointed by the governing body), Foundation Governors (appointed by the church).

Multi- Academy Trusts have an overarching Trust Board and Local Governing Boards for each of the school in their trust.

We help all schools and academies in Manchester to find governors, but particularly focus on nominating people to be Local Authority (LA) Governors in our Maintained/ Local Authority schools.

Making Decisions and Liability

Decisions are made by a majority vote that requires a certain percentage of the Governing Board to be present. Governors cannot be held individually responsible for decisions made by the Governing Board. Governors themselves do not have any individual powers and must agree to a Code of Conduct and abide by the [Nolan Principles of Public Life](#).

Find out More

- Visit the [Council Website](#) and watch videos of our Governors
- National Governance Association: [Be a school governor or trustee](#)