

WHAT DOES A GOVERNOR DO?

Role of a school governor

To contribute to the work of the governing body in ensuring high standards of achievement for all children 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 is well spent.

Activities

As part of the governing body team, a governor is expected to:

1. Contribute to the strategic discussions at governing body meetings and any of the governing body's subcommittees the governor sits on.
2. Hold the senior leaders to account by monitoring the school's performance.
3. Ensure the school staff have the resources and support they require to do their jobs well.
4. When required, serve on panels to review pay; hear grievances and disciplinary matters; hear appeals about pupil exclusions.

The role of governor is largely a thinking and questioning role, not a doing role.

Time commitment:

All Governors are expected to attend the Full Governing Body meetings, these take place on a Thursday between 6.00 and 8.00pm at the school on the following dates:

15 December 2016, 16 February 2017, 30 March 2017, 25 May 2017, 13 July 2017

Governors will be allocated to either the Finance, Management and Administration Committee or the Assessment, Curriculum and Learning Committee. These committees meet 5 times a year between 6.00 and 8.00pm at the school.

Governors should allocate time in order to read all of the papers prior to the meeting.

Governors will also be allocated an area (e.g. mathematics, safeguarding, early years) and will be expected to work with a member of school staff to report back on their area to the Governing Body. The Governor is expected to be in contact at least 1 or 2 times each term with their staff contact. Governors are also encouraged to do learning walks with the Head or Chair of the Governors. Both of these activities will probably have to take place during school hours.

Governors are expected to undertake appropriate training, either at the school or on the Island.

Under Section 50 of the Employment Rights Act 1996, if you are employed, then you are entitled to 'reasonable time off' to undertake public duties; this includes school governance. 'Reasonable time off' is not defined in law, and you will need to negotiate with your employer how much time you will be allowed.

Contact Jo Parkinson, Clerk to the Governing Body if you would like more information.

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