



HAVE A SAY AS A PARENT GOVERNOR

ALFRED STREET JUNIOR SCHOOL



How are Parent Governors appointed?

Parent Governors have to 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.

Key Points to take from this document:

- Parent Governors are a core part of the school's Board of Governors;
- A Governor's role is unpaid;
- Parent Governors set the ethos of the school.

If you are interested in finding out more about this important role of Parent Governor, please contact the Governing Body or the School.

Thank you.

We, the Governing Body of Alfred Street Junior School, look forward to hearing from you.

Why become a Parent Governor

Being a Parent Governor at your child's school Comes with a lot of responsibility, but the rewards of seeing the school and the children flourish make it all worthwhile.

What is a Parent Governor?

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

The exact make of a Board of Governors depends upon Individual schools. For more details on how the Board is structured, please see the website for "**The School Governance (Constitution)**" for England.

What do Parent Governors Do?

They bring their wealth of experience and knowledge, contributing to the successful running of their child's school. Decision made by the Board influence the whole school, but Governors are not responsible for, or involved in, the day-to-day running of the school.

Governors set the ethos of the school and drive for continuous improvement and the also oversee financial performance and ensure money is well spent. Governors commission the Head Teacher and other School Leaders to act on their behalf in putting their ideas into practice and they ensure that the school Leadership is held to account in doing so.

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 of 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.

Boards 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 for 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?

As long as you are over 18 and have a child at Alfred Street, you can express an interest in becoming a Parent Governor for the school. Prospective candidates will be given as much information 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 at 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 at Alfred Street Junior School, the Rev. Dr. L Smith. You can express your interest through an introductory email to her or to the Head Teacher at the school.

EMAIL : chair@alfredstreet.northants.sch.uk

OR

head@alfredstreet.northants-ecl.gov.uk

You can also visit the school's website for more information.

Website : www.alfredstreetjunior.org