

Frequently Asked Questions



SCHOOL
GOVERNORS'
ONE-STOP SHOP

*'Recruiting Governors with management skills
for Schools that need them most.'*

What responsibilities do governors have?

School governors make important collective decisions and the governing body is answerable to parents and the local community. The governing body is responsible for providing strategic direction, ensuring accountability and monitoring and evaluating school performance. Specific responsibilities include:

- Promoting high standards of education and achievement
- Planning the school's long-term future
- Setting the school's aims and values
- Appointing senior staff including the head teacher
- Budgetary allocation and control

Who makes the appointment?

This is the responsibility of the Local Authority and/or the governing body of the individual school. It is recommended that volunteers visit the school to meet the head teacher and/or the chair of governors before making a final decision. School Governors' One-Stop Shop (SGOSS) remains in contact until you have been placed within a school and will seek to provide you with as much information as possible on the progress of your application. SGOSS can also be approached directly by individual schools and if such a vacancy is near you your application can be submitted straight to the school.

What qualifications do I need?

The most important quality is a desire to help provide children with the best possible standard of education and so enable them to realise their potential and aspirations. You do not have to be a parent, or know about education to be a good governor. To apply you need to be aged 18 or over. Your application will be welcomed regardless of your background.

Who can serve as a school governor?

Anyone who is not disqualified from being a school governor under the School Governor (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2007 can volunteer in this role. The Regulations are printed in full on the back page of the SGOSS application form and can also be viewed on the SGOSS website www.sgoss.org.uk

Do school governors require a Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) Check?

Governors can be asked to undergo an enhanced CRB check depending on the local arrangements. From November 2010 all new and reappointed governors will be under a mandatory requirement to register with the Vetting and Barring Scheme and this will involve undergoing an enhanced CRB check.

What is the time commitment?

On average 6-8 hours per month during the school term. This will allow you to attend the full governing body meetings, participate in one of the committees that support the governing body, and do the necessary preparatory reading.

What are the different types of governor?

Governing bodies comprise representatives from the school staff, the Local Authority, parents, the local community and in particular circumstances members of churches and other interest groups.

Is there training and support for school governors?

It is expected that all new governors will attend the governor induction programme provided by the Local Authority (LA), and schools should also have their own in-house induction arrangements. LAs also provide guidance documents, briefing papers, newsletters and advice. Governors should be committed to attending further training during their term of office in order to be able to make the most effective contribution to their governing body.

Am I entitled to time off from work for governing duties?

Governors, together with magistrates, and members of certain other statutory authorities, have the right to reasonable time off work for their public duties - although this may be unpaid. It is always worth checking with your manager or Human Resources department what your employer's up-to-date volunteering policy.

What is the legal position?

Governing bodies are established by law as corporate bodies. Responsibility for decisions lies with the whole governing body. Governing bodies are covered by Local Authority insurance agreements. All governors receive a CD version of the Guide to the Law for School Governors.

Do I have to be a UK citizen to be a school governor?

No, you can be a governor as long as you are resident within the country legally.

Further information can be found at **www.sgo.org.uk** where you can also apply online.

How to contact us

Phone: **020 7354 9805** E-mail: **info@sgo.org.uk**

Website: **www.sgo.org.uk**

School Governors' One-Stop Shop

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