

Interested in becoming a School Governor?



Would you like to be involved in raising standards of achievement and improving and supporting education in Cardiff schools? If so, why not consider being a school governor? Governors bring a variety of experiences into the governing body from many different backgrounds. Schools are keen to attract people in the community to become governors; people who can bring energy and experience and can contribute to the strategic leadership of their school.

Governor vacancies exist in many schools in Cardiff and you would be joining over 1800 governors from all walks of life who are already making a difference for the children and young people in our city.

Who sits on a governing body?

Every school must have a governing body. The membership will vary according to the type of school and there are a number of different governor categories:

- Parent Governors - elected by and from parents of registered pupils at the school.
- Community Governors - are selected and appointed by the governing body.
- Staff Governors - elected by teaching and support staff at the school.
- Foundation Governors – selected and appointed by the Diocese or Trust
- Local Authority (LA) Governors - are appointed by the Local Authority.

What do school governors do?

Being a governor is challenging but rewarding. Governors need to have time to dedicate to their role, to be prepared to make challenging decisions, act with the very best of intentions and confidentially at all times, and to make sure their decisions are followed up.

Key roles include:

- Determining the overall direction, aims, policies and priorities of the school;
- Monitoring performance and promoting high standards of educational achievement, attendance and behaviour, including the rigorous review of performance data;
- Acting as a “critical friend” and setting targets by which progress for pupil achievement can be measured;
- Ensuring that all learners have access to a broad and balanced curriculum and that all statutory requirements are met;
- Involvement in all staffing processes including pay, staff appointments, performance management, suspension, disciplinary issues and dismissal, grievances;
- Looking after the well being and safeguarding of learners

Many employers encourage their staff to become governors and allow time off with pay although this is not a legal requirement.

Being a governor is usually a four year position but it doesn't have to stop there! If you are eligible, you could seek re-appointment or re-election for further terms of office.

How might it benefit me?

Being a school governor can bring great satisfaction through the opportunity to make a difference to the effective running of a school. Governors work as a team in contributing knowledge and expertise and making collective decisions for the school. As a governor you acquire transferable skills and experience that can benefit you both personally and professionally. Free training is also provided each term on a number of subjects essential to support you in your role and is arranged by the Local Authority.

Your commitment

As a governor you should be able to:

- Attend and participate in governors meetings on a regular basis;
- Attend mandatory training provided by the Local Authority;
- Attend other training sessions to further your knowledge and expertise;
- Spend time getting to know the school through link governor visits/learning walks;
- Participate in panel meetings such as appointments, staffing, pupil issues and complaints;
- Respect confidentiality at all times;
- Adhere to your Governing Body's Code of Conduct/Governors' Wales Principles of Conduct.

What support is available to help governors in their role?

- Induction training – to welcome and introduce you to the role of a governor;
- An ongoing programme of training for all governors, including mandatory training, throughout the year;
- A regular newsletter to keep you updated with developments;
- Local and national help lines and websites;
- Support and guidance from other members of your own team of governors.

Interested?

If you would like to apply to become a school governor please complete and return our application form and we will contact you about suitable vacancies. If you would prefer to talk things through first, please contact us and we will be pleased to help.

Contact us:

E-mail: governor.services@cardiff.gov.uk or Tel: 029 20872714

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