



THE ROLE OF A PARENT GOVERNOR

WHO ARE PARENT GOVERNORS?

Parent Governors are elected by parents of children at the school. For a person to stand for election and to vote in a Parent Governor Election she/he must have parental responsibility for a child who is a registered pupil at the school. A parent governor is a representative and not a delegate of parents. As a parent governor you do not have to vote in a particular way because you have been pressed to do so by parents. Objectivity, however, is essential. You are not there to promote the interests of your own children but all children.

If there are insufficient eligible candidates for the vacancies at an election the Governing Body can appoint a Parent Governor, but there are restrictions on who can be appointed.

Parent Governors, like all Governors, serve for four years. If a Parent Governor ceases to be the parent of a child registered at the school within the four year period, she/he may continue to be a Governor for the rest of her/his term of office.

All maintained schools Governing Bodies have at least one Parent Governor.

- **Parent Governors** have the same rights, responsibilities and duties as other Governors.
- **Parent Governors** should play a full and active part in the Governing Body but,
- **Parent Governors**, like other Governors, do not have the power to act as individuals or as a group unless specifically authorised to do so by the Governing Body.
- **Parent Governors** are not on the Governing Body simply to represent the interest of parents, or to be the only link with parents because all Governors must have regard to these issues.

WHAT DO GOVERNORS DO?

All academies have a Governing Body, which together with the Headteacher sets the aims and policies of the school. The Headteacher is responsible for the day-to-day management of the school. Together the Governing Body and Headteacher must ensure the school provides good quality education and helps to raise standards.

The Governing Body:-

- is accountable for the performance of the school to the parents and the wider community,
- plans the school's future direction,
- selects the Headteacher,
- makes decisions on the school's budget and staffing,
- makes sure the National Curriculum is taught,
- decides how the school can encourage pupils' spiritual, moral and cultural development,
- makes sure the school provides for all its pupils, including those with special educational needs and disabilities.

HOW MUCH TIME WILL IT TAKE?

To be an effective member of the Governing Body team, it takes time. You will need to attend at least one Full Governing Body meeting per half term and be involved in one or two committees, which deal with finance, staffing, curriculum, premises and other matters. These usually meet at least once a half term. In addition you will take on a link governor role to the school curriculum such as Humanities, Special Educational Needs and disabilities, Literacy or Mathematics. This will involve arranged visits during the school day. You may also be expected to speak to external visitors such as Ofsted.

HOW IS A PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTED AND EXPECTATIONS?

Parent governors are elected by other parents and it is important to establish a rapport with the parental body that elected you, whilst continuing to maintain a strategic approach to school governance.

As an effective parent governor, you:

- Help to decide the priorities for improving the school,
- Champion the vision, values and ethos of Greenbank High School,
- Make yourself available to parents, listen to other parents' opinions and take account of them as you contribute to governors' decisions,
- Work in partnership with the Headteacher, Senior Leadership Team and co-operatively with other governors to raise standards and improve outcomes for all children,
- Prepare for meetings by reading papers beforehand,
- Take responsibility for your own learning and development as a governor including attending training,
- Attend full governing body and relevant committee meetings promptly, regularly, and for the full time,
- Read briefings and newsletters for governors; present a balanced view of issues representing different sections of the community,
- Promote the interests of the school in the wider community,
- Are loyal to the decisions made by the governing body,
- Respect the confidentiality of governing body affairs,
- Never promise to 'solve a problem' on your own,
- Never press your own child's case at the expense of others,
- Declare an interest and withdraw from any meeting where you, a partner or close relative or associate stands to gain, or where you are so close to a matter discussed it is difficult to be impartial,
- Have regard to the broader responsibilities as a governor of a public institution in regard to promoting accountability for the actions and performance of the governing body.