

## School Governors in a Maintained School

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### Section 1 – The Role of the School Governor

Governors provide their time to help the school on a voluntary basis and come from a range of different backgrounds. There are a variety of different roles within the governing board but ultimately it involves working with the head teacher, senior leadership team and other members of governing Board to make sure that the pupils at the school receive the best possible education.

Governors are a mixture of elected and appointed individuals. The constitution of the Governing Board is two parent governors, who are elected by parents at the school. There are a number of co-opted governors which are elected by the Governing Board, Foundation governors are appointed in Church schools by the Diocese, and one local authority governor. The Headteacher, a teacher and one other non-teaching member of staff are also represented.

A governor's aim is to work towards a vision that the children at the school will get the best possible education, that they will be happy and safe and enjoy their time at school. They will support the head teacher and the dedicated team of staff, but also will challenge rigorously where necessary to ensure that objectives are delivered.

The governing board has a strategic role and sets policy, whereas the head teacher has an operational role and is responsible for delivery of the policies that are agreed. Governor's decisions are made following informed discussion, whereas the head teacher uses professional judgement.

**All our governors are required to complete an Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check (paid for by the school) and adhere to our Governor Code of Conduct.**

#### Key Relationships

The pupils of the school	Parents
Teaching and non-teaching staff	The School Senior Leadership Team
Department for Education	Ofsted

Local Authority	The local and wider community
Members of the Governing Board	Professional Boards
Regulatory Boards and Government	

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## Section 2 - Role Description

Role Title: **Member of the Governing Board**  
Salary: **This is a voluntary role**  
Base: **Uplands Junior School**

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### Terms and Conditions of Service

Appointment Status: This is a fixed term appointment for four years from the date of appointment

Hours: This will vary with the cycle of the school year but is anticipated to equate to approximately 1 day per half term, including both school time and evening engagements (subject to agreement in advance). These hours will likely be split into a number of activities across the period.

Salary: This is a voluntary and unpaid appointment

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### Role Summary

The governing board has 3 key roles:

1. To set the strategic direction
2. To hold the headteacher account for the educational performance
3. To oversee the financial effectiveness of the school, making sure the money is well spent

A governor's aim is to work towards a vision that the children at the school will get the best possible education, that they will be happy and safe and enjoy their time at school. They will support the head teacher and the dedicated team of staff, but also will challenge rigorously where necessary to ensure that objectives are delivered.

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### Core Functions

As a member of the Governing Board each individual will share responsibility as part of the team to ensure that the school exercises its functions effectively, efficiently and with good governance in accordance with the terms of the constitution as agreed by its members. The member will bring their unique perspective, informed by their expertise and experience. This will support decisions made by the Governing Board and will help ensure that:

- The interests of all stakeholders and the community remain at the heart of discussions and decisions

- The Governing Board and the wider School Leadership acts in the best interests of the pupils at all times
  - That the school delivers the highest quality education and best possible outcomes for all their pupils within their resource and budget allocation
  - Good governance remains central at all times and in-line with the Governance Handbook and any future amendments.
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### **Key Specific Responsibilities:**

- The Governing Board has to comply with regulations set out by the Department of Education and is required to appoint a chair and vice chair.
- The Governing Board is required to meet a minimum of 3 times a year at 'Full Governor Board meetings' which generally take place near the beginning of each new term.
- As well as attending a termly Full Governors meeting it is expected that individual Governors will actively participate in the work of at least one committee and an additional area of responsibility to contribute to the fair distribution of the work undertaken by the Governing Board. These responsibilities will be agreed and assigned on an annual basis and expect to have half termly commitments in time and execution, which is likely to be both during school time and some time out of school time. Monitoring the progress of the School Improvement Plan and specific subjects is key to fulfilling the role of a governor.
- The responsibilities of the Governing Board include setting targets for pupil achievement, managing the school finances, making sure that the curriculum is balanced and broadly based, appointing staff and reviewing staff pay and performance.
- In addition to the broad role of the Governing Board and its appointed committees we are working with the school to support in specific areas to enhance the delivery of the school improvement plan. Link Governors work with a school appointed champion to understand and support the development of the school and act as a conduit to the wider world to enhance the delivery of the whole school experience for the children of the school.
- The school aims to maintain the goodwill and confidence of its staff, pupils and wider stakeholder community. To assist in achieving this objective it is essential at all times for Governors to carry out their duties in a courteous and sympathetic manner.
- Every Governor is expected to establish and maintain positive interpersonal relationships with other members. Positive relationships are characterised by trust, open communication and respect.

- Governors are expected to attend and participate in collective and individual training and development opportunities, including off site training and online e-learning.
- Governors must not disclose, either during or after the termination of your appointment, any information of a confidential nature relating to the organisation, its staff, its pupils or any third party, which may have been obtained in the course of the appointment. Such information must be handled securely at all times, including home and remote working.

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### **Key General Responsibilities:**

- The post holder must be aware of and comply with all policies and procedures relevant to their work area.
- The organisation takes its responsibility to safeguard and protect the welfare of children and adults very seriously. The Post Holder must undertake a DBS check arranged by the school .
- All governors have a safeguarding responsibility and in line with Government Guidance must complete Safeguarding and Prevent Duty training as part of their induction
- All duties and responsibilities must be undertaken, at all times, in compliance with the County & School HR Policies and Procedures.
- All staff must be aware of the responsibilities placed upon them under the Health & Safety at Work Act (1974) to ensure that the agreed safety procedures are carried out to maintain a safe environment for pupils, employees and visitors.
- The duties of this post are subject to review and changes may be made to this role description and person specification as appropriate in response to organisational changes, service changes and guidance and instructions received from other organisations such as the, Local Authority or the Department for Education
- This role description is not exhaustive and may include other responsibilities which are appropriate to the post. As a minimum the role description and person specification will be reviewed annually as part of the annual appraisal process.
- We aim to ensure that nobody receives less favourable treatment on the grounds of sex, marital status, disability, religion, creed, colour, race, nationality, ethnic origins or social background, or are disadvantaged by conditions or requirements that cannot be shown to be justifiable.
- The post holder must be familiar with and comply with the Code of Conduct.

### Section 3 – Person Specification, Specific Attributes and Competencies

Person Specification		Essential	Desirable
Qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An interest in the education of children.</li> <li>• High level of literacy skills/expertise.</li> <li>• Live or work within the local community or be able to demonstrate how you are otherwise able to bring that perspective to the Governing Board.</li> </ul>	✓ ✓ ✓	
Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sound communication skills</li> <li>• Assimilation skills to help absorb and make use of a wide range of information and data.</li> <li>• Ability to drive improvement by supporting and challenging others.</li> <li>• Specific skills to strengthen the skills base of the governing body (e.g. recruitment skills, finance skills, HR or business)</li> <li>• Experience of chairing and running effective meetings.</li> </ul>	✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓
Knowledge and Expertise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The capacity to develop specific knowledge and understanding of the school and its local community.</li> <li>• An understanding of the resource allocations devolved to schools, and general knowledge of the education system.</li> <li>• Knowledge and understanding of internal and external data</li> <li>• Appreciation of the Ofsted monitoring and inspection regime.</li> </ul>	✓	✓ ✓ ✓
Personal Qualities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fairness, tact and diplomacy</li> <li>• A commitment to equal opportunities</li> <li>• A commitment to ensuring the best education for children and young people in Wolverhampton</li> <li>• Ability to respect confidentiality</li> <li>• A willingness to work constructively as part of a team</li> <li>• A willingness to participate in training and self-evaluation</li> <li>• Able to establish credibility with all stakeholders and partners, especially pupils,</li> </ul>	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓	

	parents, teaching professionals and the wider stakeholder community.		
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## Eligibility to be a School Governor

- Must be aged over 18
  - Must not a current pupil at the school
  - must not the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order, an interim bankruptcy restrictions order, a debt relief restrictions order, an interim debt relief restrictions order or a sequestration that has not been discharged, annulled or reduced
  - Have not been removed as a trustee for a charity by an order made by the Charity Commission or the High Court on the grounds of misconduct or mismanagement in administration of the charity
  - Have not been removed, under section 34 of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, from being concerned in the management or control of any body
  - Have not been disqualified from being a company director and/or a charity trustee
  - Have not been disqualified from holding office as a governor
  - Have not been removed from office as an elected governor within the last 5 years
  - Not disqualified from working with children, barred from regulated activity and/or disqualified from registering for childminding or providing daycare
  - not disqualified from registering under Part 3 of the Childcare Act 2006
  - not subject to a direction of the Secretary of State under section 142 of the Education Act 2002, or to a section 128 direction
  - not disqualified from being an independent school proprietor, teacher or employee by the Secretary of State
- If a parent governor
- Not an elected member of the local authority
  - Not paid to work at the school for more than 500 hours in a year
- If a local authority governor,
- Not a staff member
- If a partnership governor,
- Not a parent of a registered pupil at the school
  - Not a staff member
  - Not an elected member of the local authority
  - Not employed by the local authority in connection with its education functions

This, and further detail on when these points apply, is set out in:

- Schedule 4 of The School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2012
- Regulation 6 of The School Governance (Constitution and Federations) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014
- Regulation 2 of The School Governance (Constitution and Federations) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2017
- Pages 21 to 22 of the DfE's statutory guidance