



Archway



**Information on Becoming a
School Governor**

Do you have what it takes to be a school governor?

You don't have to be an expert on education to be a school governor. The experience and skills you bring from your roles at work and in the community are very valuable.

What is the governing body?

The governing body is made up from several groups of people: staff, local authority appointed governors, co-opted governors who represent the community and bring certain skills, and parents. Parent governors are elected by and from the parents and carers of children at the school.

Each individual governor is a member of the governing body, which is established in law as a corporate body. Individual governors do not act independently of the rest of the governing body, as all decisions are the joint responsibility of the governing body.

What do governors do?

Together with the headteacher, governors set the direction for the school, providing strategic leadership and accountability. We make decisions collectively on important matters such as performance targets, the school's development plan and school policies, and play a key role in raising school standards and monitoring performance. We hold senior leadership to account and make important decisions on issues such as the school budget and the curriculum. We work with the school's leadership team to make sure that the school is working towards becoming 'Outstanding' and responding to Ofsted recommendations.

Governors are also involved in committees responsible for headteacher recruitment, parental appeals or complaints.

As governors, we provide the headteacher with support and advice. We ask searching questions, whilst respecting the headteacher's position as the professional leader of the school. The role of the governor is to be strategic NOT operational; setting the direction of the school but not being involved in the day to day running which is the responsibility of the headteacher.



How much time do I need to give?

As a governor, you will need to be able to commit time to attend meetings, visit the school during school hours, to become a link governor for a particular subject area or department and to take part in regular training.

At Archway, governors attend five full governing body meetings (about two hours per meeting), serve on one committee which will meet five times a year (about two hours per meeting), attend other events eg parents' evenings. All governor meetings are in the early evening and start usually between 4.30pm and 5pm. Most governors find that they spend on average two hours per week during term time on governor activities. The term of office for a governor is four years.

The role of the governor is unpaid. If you are employed, your employer should allow you reasonable time off work to attend to your responsibilities as a governor. Governors are able to claim out of pocket expenses to cover such things as childcare, travel to training and stationery / postage costs.

What are the benefits of being a school governor?

"I have been a governor for over 9 years at Archway School, both as a parent and then later as a co-opted governor. Like most people, I was very hesitant at the beginning about whether it was the right thing to do, but I have gained so much from the role, that I would encourage anyone to give it a go. I have learned so much about the school and staff - the pressures they work under and more importantly the real successes that happen across all areas - not just the quoted government statistics. It has also confirmed my faith in young people and their amazing talents as well as realise that some face more hurdles than others and how the school supports everyone to flourish and achieve.

I hope that in return I have offered support when needed as well as challenge by asking the everyday questions when things are unclear or seem to be less than expected. It is a real privilege to be able to ask about the working of the school and how this affects staff and young people. Not everything is straightforward and the governors are given an insight into some of the complex issues that face schools everywhere. I am proud that I belong to such a strong school community and understand a little better the hard work that goes into making it successful."

Chris Minett, former Governor, Archway School

What support will I get when I become a school governor?

As a new school governor you will have an induction plan and a mentor / buddy who will help you become familiar with your new role. The induction will last for 6 to 12 months and will include:

- An induction handbook
- Meetings with the Chair of governors and your mentor
- Visits to the school
- Taking part in the Local Authority's training for new governors
- Familiarisation with the school structure and governing body meetings
- Assessment of any other training needs or help required

I'm interested! What do I do now?

If you would like to know more about being a governor, then we would be pleased to hear from you. You can speak to:

The Chair of Governors, Anne-Marie Delrosa
(email: chairofgovernors@archwayschool.net)

or

The clerk to the governors, Angela Lamond
(email: clerktogovernors@archwayschool.net)

If you would like someone to call you, please contact the school office on
01453 763242
and they will take your details and get someone to call you back.



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