

WHAT ARE GOVERNORS

EXPECTED TO DO?

HOW TO FIND
OUT MORE ABOUT
BECOMING A
GOVERNOR

Contact the Suffolk Leadership
and Governance Team on
01473 263972 or email
governance@suffolk.gov.uk

Contribute to the strategic discussions at governing body meetings which determine:

- The vision and ethos of the school
- Clear and ambitious strategic priorities and targets for the school
- The school's budget including the expenditure of the pupil premium allocation
- The school's staffing structure and key staffing policies
- The principles to be used by school leaders to set other school policies

In order to perform this role well, a governor is expected to:

- Get to know the school, including visiting the school occasionally during school hours, and gain a good understanding of the school's strengths and weaknesses
- Attend induction training and regular relevant training and development events
- Attend meetings and read all the papers before the meeting

- Act in the best interest of all the pupils of the school; and behave in a professional manner, as set down in the governing body's code of conduct, including acting in strict confidence

Hold the senior leaders to account by monitoring the school's performance, this includes:

- Agreeing the outcomes from the school's self-evaluation and ensuring they are used to inform the priorities in the school development plan
- Considering all relevant data and feedback provided on request by school leaders and external sources on all aspects of school performance
- Asking challenging questions of school leaders
- Ensuring senior leaders have developed the required policies and procedures and the school is operating effectively according to those policies
- Listening to and reporting to the school's stakeholders; pupils, parents, staff and the wider community including employers

When required, serve on panels of governors to:

- Appoint the head teacher and other senior leaders
- Appraise the head teacher
- Set the head teacher's pay and agree the pay recommendations for other staff
- Hear appeals about pupil exclusions

A governor does not:

- Write school policies
- Undertake audits of any sort —whether financial or health and safety —even if the governor has the relevant professional experience
- Spend time with the pupils of the school —if you want to work directly with children, there are many other voluntary valuable roles within the school
- Undertake classroom observations to make judgements on the quality of teaching

The role of a governor is largely a thinking and questioning role, not a doing role.