

WHY BECOME A SCHOOL GOVERNOR IN SUFFOLK?

MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

Becoming a school governor is a fantastic opportunity to be part of a team that can positively influence children's lives. Governors provide challenge and support to the leadership team of a school with the ultimate aim of driving up standards. Schools are embedded within the fabric of their communities and it is part of the role of being a governor to ensure the school is as good as it can be.

IT'S A CHALLENGE

There's no denying that being a school governor is a challenge, but that's a good thing. The role should be a challenge because it's important. This does not necessarily mean the role is time consuming but it will challenge you to think in new ways and work with new people in a different environment.

SUPPORT FROM YOUR EMPLOYER

Most employers are happy to let their staff become governors; they can see the benefits of the new skills their staff gain. Most allow time to complete the roles and attend training. We can speak to your employers about this on your behalf.

DEVELOP YOUR SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

As well as giving something back to the community, school governors develop a range of both new and existing skills. Governors receive free training which enriches you and your CV. It makes you more marketable as you have skills and experiences that differ from many others. You may want to develop your professional expertise in a specific capacity, for example on a Finance, Personnel or Health and Safety Committee. There are lots of different roles in a governing body.

IMPROVE YOUR KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE EDUCATION SECTOR

Whilst experience in education is a valuable attribute for governors to have, you are not expected to have prior knowledge of the education sector. What is more important to the role is a commitment to the position. We will complete a skills audit to see if you have any specific strengths relevant to certain functions of the governing body. You will gain a fascinating insight into how schools work and you will gain a further appreciation of the work of school leaders as well as the challenges schools face.

HOW THE LOCAL AUTHORITY WILL HELP AND SUPPORT YOU?

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

FINDING A GOVERNING BODY NEAR YOU THAT FITS YOUR SKILLS

We will help you with this. We have a list of vacancies and will introduce you to the Chair of Governors and the Head Teacher and help you with a skills audit to get a good match. If it helps, you can observe a governing body meeting before you make a final decision – try it before you buy it!

INITIAL TRAINING

There are number of courses we will encourage you to attend when you first start, including 'where do I start?'. The courses run at various times and locations to help you. Most schools pay into a training package so the courses are free.

MENTORING

We can identify mentors (experienced governors) who will guide and support you, especially in the early stages, while you learn the ropes.

ONGOING SUPPORT

The chair of governors will support you to develop as a governor and make sure your skills are utilised to best effect. We can also give you access to the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programme run by Suffolk County Council. This has a range of courses to develop your skills such as Project Management and Management and Leadership programmes.