



Stockton-on-Tees
BOROUGH COUNCIL



**Become A School
Governor -**

You Could Make A Difference



SCHOOL GOVERNORS

Schools Need Governors - People Like You





Who Are Governors?

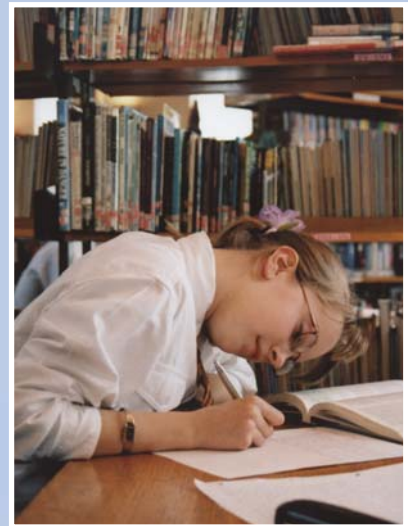
All over the country, school governors are helping Headteachers ensure the next generation gets the best from school. They are volunteers who help decide on the direction, focus and ethos of schools.

Governors represent people from many walks of life; school staff, parents, the local community and even the church or organizations connected to the school. This means that school decisions are made by people with a wide range of experience and views.

Governing bodies comprise various types of governor and can include:

- Parents elected by other parents at the school
- Teachers and non teaching staff elected by their colleagues
- Local Authority appointed governors
- Foundation governors (church schools only)
- Members of the community co-opted by the governing body.

We are looking to recruit people with skills that can be used to strengthen and support the work of the governing body - People Like You!





What Is The Role Of A School Governor?

Governors work as part of a team. They are responsible for making sure the school provides a good quality education. Governors govern rather than manage. They are there to give direction and focus by performing the strategic role. The day to day management of the school is the responsibility of the Headteacher. Governors will support and, at the same time, challenge Head Teachers by gathering views, asking questions and deciding what is best for the school.

The governing body is answerable to parents and the wider community. Governors are required to play an active part in the decision making process of the school, getting involved in real issues. Governors make important decisions together on policies and strategies and have to stand by their decisions.

Governors discuss and have input on:

- School policies such as discipline, dress, sport, bullying and homework
- Long term plans and the future of the school
- How the school budget will be spent
- How the school will try to reach performance targets
- Repair and maintenance of school buildings





Some Of The Things Governors Can Expect To Be Involved In Include:

- Governing Body Meetings
- Committee Meetings
- Hearings and Appeals
- School Visits
- Staff Meetings
- Training
- Appointment of Headteacher and senior staff
- Complaints from pupils, staff and parents

The governing body often appoints committees of governors to look at specific issues such as the school's finances, staffing, curriculum and premises.





What Will I Gain As A School Governor?

Being a governor can be both challenging and rewarding. Governors get a great deal from the work and time they put in. It gives them an opportunity to:

- Make a real difference, and the chance to contribute to the good of the community, leading to real satisfaction and a sense of achievement
- To work as part of a team. Work with people and pupils from a variety of social, cultural and religious backgrounds
- To develop new skills and to strengthen existing ones
- To gain an understanding of the decision making process of school governing bodies and an awareness of the education system as a whole
- To undertake a variety of learning opportunities provided by the School & Governor Support Service on aspects of the role of the governor
- Enjoy the personal satisfaction and sense of achievement of working to improve the school
- Enjoy using your skills for the good of the local community





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What Skills Do I Need To Be A School Governor?

There are no pre-requisite skills to becoming a governor. The ability to work as part of a team, a readiness to accept responsibility and the confidence to ask questions, listen and learn all form part of the role. You do not need to have any particular qualifications or have expertise in education, just time, energy, enthusiasm and commitment and the desire to make a difference. There are a range of skills that some members of the governing body may be able to bring with them from their experiences at home and in work, such as financial planning, personnel issues etc, which will enhance the effectiveness of the governing body.

Governors come from different backgrounds reflecting the many interest groups involved in our schools, but they have one thing in common: they are dedicated to ensuring the children in their school have the best education possible.

Expect the role to be challenging but rewarding.

The School & Governor Support Service offer a varied programme of Learning Opportunities for governors and governing bodies to assist them in becoming more effective in their role and keep them updated on current issues. Governing bodies, however, also arrange in-house training within their school on relevant topics of their own choice.

There is a full induction programme for newly appointed governors. A 'governors reunited session' is being offered to allow governors who have attended the induction to come back and share their early experiences in their role and to see what they have learned. This will ensure that governors of the future can benefit from their experiences.



SCHOOL & GOVERNOR SUPPORT SERVICES

You Could Make A Difference



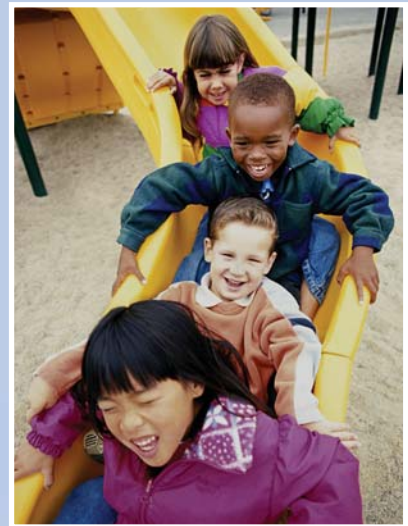
How Much Time Do Governors Give?

There are no hard or fast rules on how much time will be involved. All schools are different and have individual needs. Normally governors serve for four years, but as volunteers they can leave at any time. Governors can normally apply to be re-appointed or re-elected if they so wish.

A governor's main task is to attend meetings of the school governing body. These normally take place once a term in the evening. Each committee (on issues such as finance, personnel, curriculum and premises) also normally meets once a term in the evening or during the day.

There is a need for governors to prepare for these meetings, including pre-reading of material circulated prior to every meeting, and also keeping up-to-date on related issues.

There are times when governors may need to get involved in governor duties during normal working hours, such as visiting the school, when difficult decisions on staff or pupils have to be made or a new Headteacher is appointed. Those governors who are employed within business, will find many employers will support their staff by letting them have time off to work on governor duties.





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Do You Want To Be A Governor?

**School Governors are people like you –
So get involved and support our schools.**

If you are interested in applying to become a governor and have what it takes to make a difference, then get involved. If you wish to talk through the application process or ask further questions to help you make up your mind you can either:

- Talk to someone who is a governor
- Contact the Head or Chair of Governors at your local school
- Contact the School & Governor Support Team – contact details below – who will be able to advise you on where the vacancies are, the type of vacancy i.e. community governor, parent governor and how to apply.

You can also find out more information on becoming a governor on the following websites:

- Stockton-on-Tees Teaching Resources and Information Network - www.train.stockton.gov.uk/governors
- Department of Education and Skills - www.dfes.gov.uk

School & Governor Support Service, Stockton Borough Council,
Children, Education & Social Care, The Education Centre,
Junction Road, Norton, Stockton-on-Tees. TS20 1PR.

Tel: 01642 527687 or 527665 Fax: 01642 528676



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If you would like this information in any other format or languages please contact the 'Diversity Team' on 01642 528830.

إذا أنت ترغب الحصول على هذه المعلومات
بأشكال أو بلغات أخرى فالرجاء الإتصال
'بدايفرستي تيم' على هاتف رقم 01642 528830

欲要這份資訊的其它版式或其它語言版，
請致電 01642 528830 接洽
'多元化隊' (Diversity Team)

اگر شما این اطلاعات را به شکل یا زبان دیگری میخواهید
لطفا با تیم دایورسیتی (گوناگونی) با شماره
۰۱۶۴۲۵۲۸۸۳۰ به تماس شوید

**Si vous souhaitez recevoir ces renseignements
sous tout autre format ou traduits dans
d'autres langues, veuillez contacter
'Diversity Team' sur le 01642 528830.**

نه گهر حضرت لئ یہ ہم زانیاریہ بہدہ سنت بکہوئت بہ
شیوہ بہ کی تر بان بہ زمانہ کانی تر نکایہ پہیوہندی
بکہ بہ 'تیمی دایفرستی' لہ سہر ژمارہی تہلہؤن
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ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਬਣਤਰ ਜਾਂ ਬੋਲੀ
ਵਿੱਚ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ 'ਡਾਇਵਰਸਿਟੀ ਟੀਮ'
ਨੂੰ 01642 528830 ਨੰਬਰ ਉੱਤੇ ਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ।

اگر آپ اس معلومات کو کسی اور انداز یا زبان میں حاصل کرنا چاہتے ہیں
تو ڈائیورسٹی ٹیم سے اس نمبر پر رابطہ کیجئے
01642 528830

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