



DANBURY PARK COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

"Be wise, be happy, belong"

Becoming a Governor

Many people may not have any idea what a School Governor does. In some cases, parents may not know who their School Governors are and may never have seen them. For some people, the first they hear about the role of School Governor is when they see a vacancy advertised in the School newsletter.

The role of a School Governor is demanding but very rewarding and is a good way to give back to the local community. The purpose of this "factsheet" is to provide a high level view of the role and responsibilities of a School Governor so that when vacancies arise from time to time potential applicants will have a better understanding as to what is involved and what is expected. So

Who Can be a Governor / Qualifications

Subject to satisfactory completion of a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check, anyone over the age of 18 may volunteer to become a School Governor. No specific qualifications are necessary - what is really important is that Governors have the energy, enthusiasm, time and a real desire to help provide children with the best possible education. The ability to work as part of a team and a willingness to make a commitment to the School are key.

The Governing Body membership includes a number of places reserved for those with children attending the School and, when vacancies occur (assuming that there are more applicants than available places), successful applicants will be elected by the parents.

The membership also includes elected members of staff (in addition to the Headteacher), people from the local community and nominees from the Local Authority.

Role and Responsibilities

The role and responsibilities of the Governing Body are always subject to Government Legislation and Policy and Local Authority requirements.

The Governing Body has three main roles:

- To provide strategic direction for the School
- To act as a critical friend to the Headteacher
- To ensure accountability.

These main roles include some important duties:

- Determining how the School budget is spent
- Forming policy on the School's curriculum and collective worship
- An involvement in Personnel matters
- Setting standards for pupil's behaviour and discipline
- Making sure that School buildings are welcoming and safe
- Setting and monitoring the School's aims and policies.

There is a key principle of "accountability" which underlies all Governor responsibilities and actions. Governors are responsible to the wider School community in undertaking their roles - they are not elected or chosen for their own benefit or that of their own children, or so that they may benefit financially from their membership of the Governing Body.

The Governors are **not** responsible for the day to day management and operation of the School.

Expectations

The expectation of individual Governors is that they will:

- enhance the work of the Governing Body to enable a strong focus on raising standards, so that every child can achieve their potential
- demonstrate their commitment by getting to know the School and becoming involved in School life and activities
- take personal responsibility for their ongoing training and development
- attend meetings (Governing Body/committees/working groups) and play an active part
- prepare for meetings so they are well informed
- support the School with parents and in the community
- recognise the corporate status of the Governing Body and the concept of collective responsibility
- respect confidentiality and the need to act with discretion.

Training and Support

Once a new Governor has been appointed a welcome pack will be sent out. This pack includes information about the role and responsibilities, advice on training and keeping up to date, plus a list of useful contacts. New Governors are expected to attend a one day induction course. In addition a comprehensive range of free training courses is available to Governors which covers all aspects of a Governor's responsibilities. It must be emphasised that all Governors are responsible for their own ongoing training and development.

What next?

If you are interested in becoming a School Governor you should:

- As a parent of a child / children in the School, look out for details of "Parent Governor" vacancies. These will appear in the School newsletter which is available via the School website
- Let the School know that you may be interested in any other Governor vacancies which may arise
- Visit the Essex County Council website for vacancies which may be available at Danbury Park or any other School in Essex (www.essex.gov.uk/Education-Schools/Schools/becoming-a-School-governor).

Further Information

If you wish to talk to a School Governor about the role and responsibilities please let us know via the School Office. In addition, further information can be found via the internet i.e.

- www.essex.gov.uk/Education-Schools/Schools/becoming-a-School-governor).
- www.governor.net.co.uk/
- www.gov.uk/become-School-college-governor