

BECOMING A PARENT GOVERNOR AT LITTLE HEATON CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Being a school governor is a big commitment and often those new to governance feel overwhelmed with the role. Therefore, I wanted to share with parents and carers the expectation all school boards have for those considering becoming a parent governor. There are no specific qualifications or requirements for the role of parent governor - every governing board needs a balance and diversity of knowledge, skills, and experience. The role does require diplomacy, adherence to a Code of Conduct and particularly, confidentiality.

To be eligible, you need:

the time to contribute on governance duties. (Our LGB meetings and committees are held after 4pm however, this may vary.

According to the DfE guidance [The right to time off work for public duties](#), an employee can get a "reasonable" amount of time off if they're:

- **A school governor**
- **A member of the managing or governing body of an educational establishment**

This time off:

- Is to fulfil your governance duties, including attending meetings.
- May be given with pay, but your employer doesn't have to agree to this.
- Is in addition to the employee's usual holiday entitlement.
- to be aged 18 or over
- not to be disqualified under the relevant rules and procedures

Governors offer strategic guidance, rather than getting involved in the operational aspects of a school. This involves:

- Working with other board members to plan the school's strategic direction.
- Overseeing the school's financial performance, ensuring money is well-spent.
- Holding the headteacher or school leadership to account

Activities include:

- attending governing board meetings: these normally take place around six times a year and may be held outside school hours.
- looking at information and evidence on the school's progress and discussing with school leaders
- visiting the school to conduct a link visit.
- selecting and appointing a headteacher following the resignation of the current headteacher
- making decisions about issues such as pupil exclusions and staff disciplinary matters

- undertaking induction training and ongoing development. There is an expectation that all governors attend the necessary training required to undertake their role. We expect that governors take responsibility for their own training needs, as such most governors undertake 3-4 training courses a year.

All governors are expected to have due regard for The Nolan Principles. These consist of seven rules that describe how people in public office should behave and the ethical standards they should uphold. They apply to all school governors because they apply to anyone elected or appointed to public office. The seven principles set out by the Nolan committee are shown below.

1. Selflessness- Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest.

2. Integrity -Holders of public office must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships.

3. Objectivity- Holders of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.

4. Accountability -Holders of public office are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.

5. Openness- Holders of public office should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing.

6. Honesty- Holders of public office should be truthful.

7. Leadership -Holders of public office should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.

For more information about official expectations surrounding governance, check out the Department for Education's guidelines for [**maintained schools**](#) and [**multi-academy trusts \(MATs\)**](#).

If you are interested and would like further information or to meet the chair of Governors, please contact Mrs Edwards in the school Office, who will be happy to arrange a meeting.