



School Governance explained...



What does a School Governor do?

School Governors are primarily in post to help bring about school improvement. The Local Governing Body works in close partnership with the Headteacher and the staff at the school to make sure the school provides a good quality of education to all its pupils, it does this by:-

- Setting strategic direction, priorities, aims and objectives with the school.
- Adopting policies for achieving those aims and objectives
- Setting targets for achieving those aims and objectives
- Reviewing progress against the budget, plans and targets
- Approving the school budget
- Acting as a critical friend to the Headteacher by providing support and challenge
- Appointing the Headteacher

The Headteacher has been appointed by the governors, as the person who best reflects the aspirations and vision for the school. The day to day decisions about how the school is run is the responsibility of the Head and senior management team. The Headteacher discusses all the main aspects of school life with the Local Governing Body and will expect the governors to both challenge and support the school by giving constructive advice. They can question proposals and seek further information to enable them to make sound decisions, in order to determine the best line of action for their school. Governors review the academic results of their school and compare them to those of similar schools. Having identified any areas for improvement they approve strategies to make progress. They formally approve the targets to bring about improvement.

Why do schools need governors?

We have School Governors because it is important that people from the local community have a say in the way state schools are run, what is taught, how the education children receive is planned and delivered and that their well-being is paramount. Local Governing Bodies represent the public in the running of a school - they work with staff to provide a good quality of education.

The main aim of the Local Governing Body is to ensure that their school provides the best possible education for its pupils, which is no different from the main aim of the staff of the school.

Governors are responsible and accountable for all major decisions about the school and its future. Governors have a legal responsibility to conduct the school with a view to promoting high standards of educational achievement. They set the schools vision and strategic aims, monitor and evaluate performance and ensure the school is accountable to all it serves. The Headteacher is accountable to the Local Governing Body, and the Local Governing Body is accountable to its stakeholders, and is judged by Ofsted as part of the leadership of the school and on the extent it works in partnership with the Headteacher.

How is the Local Governing Body made up?

Governors are all volunteers and a Local Governing Body comprises of parents, staff and members of the community. Each individual brings different skills and knowledge to the Local Governing Body. Some governors are elected by parents, some are appointed by the Local Governing Body itself. This is to help Local Governing Bodies reflect the community they serve. They all work together as part of a team to do the best for the school; they share their skills for the benefit of the children's education.

School Governors are people who wish to make a positive contribution to children's education. Most governors have considerable life experience, and many have professional experience, both of which can be a real asset to the school. They support the school, and the staff who work within the school.

At Staples Road Primary School *all* governors attend two meetings per term as well as making visits to the School and undertaking training where necessary.

How do I contact the governors?

If you have any queries, concerns or positive experiences to share regarding School or you would like to arrange a meeting with any of the governors or find out what the Local Governing Body does please contact us at srsgovernors@gmail.com via the School Office or find us in the playground.

School Governors hold a coffee morning in the Autumn term and are available at Parents Evenings in the Spring Term. Governors also ask for feedback via Parent, Pupil and Staff surveys in the Summer term. The responses are analysed and then reviewed and discussed at the final meeting of the school year. A termly Governor update/newsletter is then produced as a means of feedback to the School Community.

School Governors

A good school is one where staff, governors and parents all work together for the benefit of the pupils. School governors are the largest volunteer force in the country; there are approximately 350,000 school governor posts in England. The responsibilities sound heavy but individual governors do not carry them. The Local Governing Body as a whole is accountable for all decisions they make and advice and training is available to support them in their role.

If you are interested in becoming a School Governor please contact the Chair who will inform you if any vacancies become available.