



## **Role Description for Parent Governor at Pooles Park Primary School**

### **Governors work together to carry out their core functions:**

1. ensuring there is clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
2. holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils and the performance management of staff
3. overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent
4. ensuring the voices of stakeholders are heard

Governors must also ensure that the governing body complies with all legal and statutory requirements. Governors should seek the advice of the clerk to the governing board and other professional advice as appropriate.

### **Governing body strategic responsibilities**

Governing bodies work closely with headteachers and senior leaders. Headteachers are responsible for day to day management whereas the role of the governing body is strategic. As such, governors are responsible for:

- determining the mission, values and long-term ambitious vision for the school
- deciding the principles that guide school policies and approving key policies
- working with senior leaders to develop a strategy for achieving the vision
- ensuring that parents, pupils, staff and the wider community are involved, consulted and informed as appropriate
- ensuring that all pupils have access to a broad and balanced curriculum such that pupils are well prepared for the next stage of their education and adult life
- setting the school's budget and ensuring it is managed effectively together with premises and other resources
- agreeing the school's staffing structure and keeping it under review to ensure it supports delivery of the strategy
- ensuring robust risk management procedures are in place and that risk control measures are appropriate and effective

### **Monitoring and evaluating school performance**

Governors must monitor the priorities that have been set to ensure progress is being made by:

- measuring the school's impact and progress towards its strategic objectives
- ensuring the required policies and procedures are in place and the school is operating effectively in line with these policies
- evaluating relevant data and feedback provided by school leaders and external reporting on all aspects of school performance

- asking challenging questions of school leaders in order to hold them to account
- holding the headteacher to account for standards, financial probity and compliance with agreed policies
- visiting the school to monitor implementation of the strategy and reporting back to the board (this could be in a link governor capacity)
- ensuring that there are policies and procedures in place to deal with complaints effectively

### **Panels and committees**

Full Governing Body Meetings are typically at 5pm on Mondays every term. In addition, there are currently 2 committees: Curriculum Committee and Finance Committee. Governors are expected to serve on 1 of the committees in order to:

- Work with the governing body and senior leaders on standards and curriculum
- appoint the headteacher and other senior leaders
- appraise the headteacher and make pay recommendations
- hear staff grievances and disciplinary matters
- review decisions to exclude pupils
- deal with formal complaints

### **Contribution to the governing body**

Governors should ensure that they are making a positive and meaningful contribution to the governing body by:

- attending meetings (a minimum of 3 full governing board meetings and a number of committee meetings each year), reading papers and preparing questions for senior leaders in advance
- establishing and maintaining professional relationships with senior leaders and colleagues on the board
- getting to know the school, including visiting the school occasionally during school hours
- undertaking induction training and developing knowledge and skills on an ongoing basis

### **Expenses**

Governors should receive out of pocket expenses incurred as a result of fulfilling their role as governor and NGA recommends that a governing board should have such an expenses policy. Payments can cover incidental expenses, such as travel and dependency care, but not loss of earnings.

### **Disqualification Criteria**

The following text summarises the qualification and disqualification regulations which can be seen in full on our website. Please seek advice if you think you may be affected.

A governor must be aged 18 or over at the time of their election or appointment. A registered pupil of the school cannot be a governor. A person cannot hold more than one governorship at the same school.

A Person is disqualified from holding or from continuing to hold office as a governor or associate member if they:

- have failed to attend meetings for six months;
- are bankrupt;
- are subject to a disqualification order or disqualification undertaking under companies legislation or an order concerning insolvency;
- have been removed from the office of trustee for a charity on grounds of misconduct or mismanagement or from being concerned in the management or control of any body;
- are included in the list of those considered by the Secretary of State as unsuitable to work with children;
- are subject to a direction of the Secretary of State under section 142 of Education Act 2002;
- are disqualified from working with children or from registration for child minding or providing day care;
- have received a sentence of imprisonment (whether suspended or not) for a period of not less than three months (without the option of a fine) in the five years before becoming a governor or since becoming a governor;
- have received a prison sentence of 2.5 years or more in the 20 years before becoming a governor;
- have at any time received a prison sentence of five years or more;
- have been fined for causing a nuisance or disturbance on school premises during the five years prior to or since appointment or election as a governor;
- refuse to make an application for a criminal records certificate.

In addition, the following disqualification criteria apply for the categories of governor listed below.

A person is disqualified from election or appointment as a parent governor of a school if the person -

- is an elected member of the local authority; or
- is paid to work at the school for more than 500 hours in any twelve consecutive months.

A person is disqualified from appointment as a **local authority governor** if the person is eligible to be a staff governor of the school.

A person is disqualified from nomination or appointment as a partnership governor of a school if the person is –

- a parent of a registered pupil at the school;
- eligible to be a staff governor of the school;
- an elected member of the local authority; or
- employed by the local authority in connection with their education functions. This does not apply in the case of a person who is employed by a local authority in England under a contract of employment providing for the person to work wholly at a school or schools maintained by the local authority.