

The Cotswold School Academy Governing Body has vacancies for some new parent governors. If you are interested please read the information below about what the role involves. We will organize a formal election process in the coming weeks but if you would like to discuss it further please contact Mrs Fran Hudson, Clerk to Governors, on

Email: governor@thecotswoldschool.co.uk

The SGOSS (Governors for Schools) website explains:

Anyone aged 18 or over and living in the UK can be a governor. Governors do not manage a school day-to-day, but are required to oversee its long-term development. Ultimately, all governor responsibilities come back to this task and can be split into three core roles:



Ensure accountability
Asking the difficult questions and guaranteeing the school is responsible for its actions.

A champion of success
Using your skills and experience to support the school in achieving its aims and recognising good performance.



Establish a strategic framework
Helping to set the school's aims and objectives.

Monitor and evaluate progress
Analysing decisions: are they producing the desired results?



Allocate and control the school budget.
From extra staff training to investing in new buildings or equipment.

Appoint senior staff.
Including the responsibility of appointing a new Deputy Head or Head Teacher.

Some frequently asked questions to give you an insight.....

Who is eligible ?

You need to be a parent of a child at the school at the time of the election to become a parent governor. Governing bodies have representatives of school staff, the local authority, parents and members of the community (co opted governors). Despite representing different groups, all governors have exactly the same role and voting rights. We are looking for 1 parent governor. An interest or experience in ICT and/or disadvantaged/SEND pupils would be useful but any background would be welcome.

What is the time commitment involved?

The average time commitment is 10-15 hours per term. This includes 6 Full Governing Body meetings a year of up to 2.5 hours each, membership of a sub - committee that meets 4 times a year, background reading and 1-2 school visits per year. School governors are like magistrates or members of a jury and therefore have a right to reasonable time off work for their public duties (this may be unpaid). It's worth checking with your H.R. department for your company's policy.

How long is the term of office?

School governors have a term of office of four years. However, as a volunteer you can resign at any time if your circumstances change.

Is training available?

Governing bodies rely on a variety of experiences and perspectives. No prior knowledge is required. Training and support is available for new and existing governors and is free of charge. We recommend all new governors attend a governor induction programme and all governors are required to do safeguarding training.

What legal responsibilities are there?

The board of trustees (or governing body) as the body legally responsible for the liabilities of the Academy must ensure that there is adequate insurance cover to cover its activities. The school has this insurance in place.

Governors in academies have the following duties

1. **Compliance** – to ensure that the charity's resources are used correctly and that the Academy complies with the law.
2. **Care** – to ensure that the Academy trust is managed efficiently and effectively.
3. **Prudence** to act responsibly and to make sure that the Academy keeps appropriate financial records.

Academy trustees should also be aware of their statutory duties as company directors in accordance with the Companies Act 2006.