

SCHOOL GOVERNORS

A school governing body is a combination of appointed, elected and co-opted governors. Most governors serve a four-year term of office, but can be re-appointed or re-elected for further terms.

Solihull relies on parents, councillors and other members of the public to serve as school governors. Solihull LA has over 1200 school governors from all walks of life, but natural turnover means that there is always a demand for new members.

Governing body meetings are held at least once every Spring, Summer and Autumn term, but some boards now meet twice each term. Much of the detailed discussion at meetings is delegated to committees which are responsible for particular areas of work such as curriculum, finance and staffing. In this way governors are able to become involved in areas which are of particular interest to them. Meetings of the full board and committees are usually held during the evening.

Although the day to day running of a school is carried out by the Headteacher and the senior staff each governing body has overall responsibility for its school and for developing and agreeing the policies within which the school will operate.

Governors have a key role to play in helping schools to provide the best possible education for its pupils. It is the help and assistance of Governors that can raise standards and ensures that every child in the school reaches their full potential.

A governor contributes to the school's success by working with fellow governors to support the Headteacher and staff.

GOVERNING BODY MEMBERSHIP

The governing body's job is to work with the school on planning, developing policies and keeping the school under review. The size and composition of the governing body is laid down in the Instrument of Government.

- **Parent Governor**

Parents, including carers, of registered pupils at a school are eligible to stand as Parent Governors. They are elected by other parents at the school. If not enough parents stand for election, the governing body may appoint a suitable person to fill the vacant place.

- **Co-Opted Governor**

Co-Opted Governors are chosen and appointed by the governing body. Pupils at the school, members of the Authority and members of teaching or non-teaching staff of the school are not eligible to be a Co-Opted Governor.

- **Staff Governor**

Teaching and support staff paid to work at the school are eligible for staff governorship. Any election which is contested must be held by ballot.

- **Headteacher**

The Headteacher is a governor by virtue of being the Headteacher. If the Headteacher does not wish to sit on the governing body the Headteacher post must remain vacant.

- **LA Governor**

LA Governors are appointed by the LA, via Governor Services. LA Governors cannot be members of the school staff.

- **Foundation Governor**

In Foundation, Voluntary Controlled or Voluntary Aided schools, Foundation Governors are appointed to represent the interest of the Church authority or voluntary trust or organisation named in the school's Instrument of Government. Foundation Governors can be removed by those who appointed them, but only if they have reasonable cause to do so.

- **Associate Members**

Associate Members are appointed by the governing body and can include pupils, staff and others with specific expertise to offer. They can serve on committees and attend full governing body meetings. Associate Members are not governors and not recorded on the Instrument of Government.

GOVERNOR SERVICES

Governor Services provides support and advice to schools and their governing bodies. Governor Services also provides a number of seminars during the year to assist in the dissemination of national and local educational policies and procedures, the development of governing bodies and the personal development of governors.

Each governing body will have an induction system to introduce new members to the responsibilities and requirements of being a new governor. An important part of this induction is attendance on the National Training Programme for New Governors seminars. This consists of a series of three seminars which are usually held each term.

Should you have any concerns about the operation of your school and it seems inappropriate to share these with your chair of governors or headteacher then you should contact Governor Services in the first instance.

If you require any information or advice relating to governor matters you can contact staff at Governor Services:

Governor Services Contact Details

Solihull Governor Services
3rd Floor Council House
Solihull
B91 3QB

Telephone: 0121 704 6403

Email: governorservices@solihull.gov.uk

Website: <http://www.solgrid.org.uk/governors/>

Follow us on Twitter @Governors_SMBC

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR GOVERNORS

Typically, governing bodies will have a code of conduct document for the guidance of its members. Such documents set out the expectations of governors in the way they conduct themselves as members of the governing body and the principles that underpin the role. You will probably be expected to read and sign a copy of your own governing body's code as part of your induction process.

Governor Services have produced a good practice guide model code of conduct which is available on the Governors Services website:

<http://www.solgrid.org.uk/governors/good-practice/>
