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| **GOVERNOR JOB DESCRIPTION** |  |

**Role of a School Governor**

To contribute to the work of the governing board in ensuring high standards of achievement for all children and young people in the school by:

• Setting the school’s vision, ethos and strategic direction;

• Holding the head teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils;   
  
• Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

**Activities**

As part of the governing board team, a governor is expected to;

1. Contribute to the strategic discussions at governing board meetings which determine:   
  
• The vision and ethos of the school;   
• Clear and ambitious strategic priorities and targets for the school;   
• That all children, including those with special educational needs, have access to a broad and   
 balanced curriculum;   
• The school’s budget, including the expenditure of the pupil premium allocation;   
• The school’s staffing structure and key staffing policies;   
• The principles to be used by school leaders to set other school policies.

2. Hold the senior leaders to account by monitoring the school’s performance; this includes:

• Agreeing the outcomes from the school’s self-evaluation and ensuring they are used to inform   
 the priorities in the school development plan;   
• Considering all relevant data and feedback provided on request by school leaders and external  
 sources on all aspects of school performance;   
• Asking challenging questions of school leaders;   
• Ensuring senior leaders have arranged for the required audits to be carried out and receiving  
 the results of those audits;   
• Ensuring senior leaders have developed the required policies and procedures and the school is  
 operating effectively according to those policies;   
• Acting as a link governor on a specific issue, making relevant enquiries of the relevant staff,   
 and reporting to the governing board on the progress on the relevant school priority; and   
• Listening to and reporting to the school’s stakeholders: pupils, parents, staff, and the wider  
 community, including local employers.

3. Ensure the school staff have the resources and support they require to do their jobs well,   
 including the necessary expertise on business management, external advice where necessary,   
 effective appraisal and CPD (Continuing Professional Development), and suitable premises, and   
 that the way in which those resources are used has impact.

4. When required, serve on panels of governors to:

• Appoint the head teacher and other senior leaders;

• Appraise the head teacher;

• Set the head teacher’s pay and agree the pay recommendations for other staff;

• Hear the second stage of staff grievances and disciplinary matters;

• Hear appeals about pupil exclusions.

The role of governor is largely a thinking and questioning role, not a doing role.

A governor does NOT:

• Write school policies;

• Undertake audits of any sort – whether financial or health & safety - even if the governor has   
 the relevant professional experience;

• Spend much time with the pupils of the school – if you want to work directly with children, there   
 are many other voluntary valuable roles within the school;

• Fundraise – this is the role of the PTA – the governing board should consider income streams   
 and the potential for income generation, but not carry out fundraising tasks;

• Undertake classroom observations to make judgements on the quality of teaching – the   
 governing board monitors the quality of teaching in the school by requiring data from the   
 senior staff and from external sources;

• Do the job of the school staff – if there is not enough capacity within the paid staff team to carry  
 out the necessary tasks, the governing board need to consider and rectify this. As you become  
 more experienced as a governor, there are other roles you could volunteer for which would  
 increase your degree of involvement and level of responsibility (e.g. as a chair of a committee).

In order to perform this role well, a governor is expected to:

• Get to know the school, including by visiting the school occasionally during school hours, and   
 gain a good understanding of the school’s strengths and weaknesses;

• Attend induction training and regular relevant training and development events;

• Attend meetings (full governing board meetings and committee meetings) and read all the   
 papers before the meeting;

• Act in the best interest of all the pupils of the school; and

• Behave in a professional manner, as set down in the governing board’s code of conduct,   
 including acting in strict confidence.

Time commitment: Under usual circumstances, you should expect to spend between 10 and 20 days a year on your governing responsibilities; the top end of this commitment, which equates to about half a day per week in term time, is most relevant to the chair and others with key roles, such as chairs of committees. Initially, you should expect your commitment to be nearer 10 days a year. However, there may be periods when the time commitment may increase, for example when recruiting a head teacher.

Under Section 50 of the Employment Rights Act 1996, if you are employed, then you are entitled to ‘reasonable time off’ to undertake public duties; this includes school governance. ‘Reasonable time off’ is not defined in law, and you will need to negotiate with your employer how much time you will be allowed.

*Adapted from ‘Welcome to Governance 6th Edition – the essential guide for newly appointed governors of state schools’, published by the National Governors’ Association ©2014*