

## **What are the benefits?**

You'll get a new challenge, an opportunity to learn new skills and work as part of an effective team.

You'll also be playing a vital role in ensuring every pupil and member of staff flourish through an enriching educational experience, where all have the freedom to grow and develop individually.

**It is a highly rewarding role.**

## **Quick Facts**

- Governors are one of the largest volunteer groups in the country.
- The Diocese of Canterbury has 104 Schools and Academies serving almost 25000 children.
- Governing Bodies normally have five groups that appoint or elect people to the body; Parents, Staff, Local Authority, Foundation and Co-opted (who are appointed by the Governors).
- The Governing Body is a corporate identity meaning it makes decisions as a group not as individual members.
- Governors play a strategic role, offering challenge, wisdom and counsel to school staff, as opposed to school teams who make all the operational decisions.
- Governors are equal and no one member of the body has any more of a vote or say in its decisions.
- Governors normally allow around 10 hours per month for their work. This includes meetings, reading and preparation, attending the school for monitoring and fact finding.
- Many business and organisations support volunteer work so may allow you to attend meetings and visits in your working hours. It is worth checking!

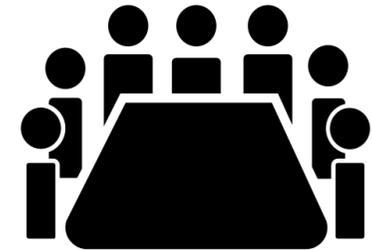
**Find out more by contacting your local school or email Rebecca Swansbury**

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# **Becoming a Governor in our Church of England Schools**



# Supporting children and young people in Church of England Schools to flourish

- ✓ Have you ever wanted to give something back to your community?
- ✓ Do you have an interest in helping or supporting young people and their education?
- ✓ Do you feel that values such as compassion, love, perseverance, peace and forgiveness should play an important part in education?
- ✓ Do you have some time to spare in the evenings and during the day?

If the answer to these is 'yes', then being a School Governor may be the role for you!

## Who can be a Governor?

**Anyone** over the age of 18 can become a Governor. You don't need to have children attending a school and you don't need to have a background in education. Governors come from all walks of life and from a variety of personal and professional backgrounds.

Each individual school will have particular expertise that they need from prospective governors.

For example: professional experience in Finance, Health and Safety, Education, Safeguarding and Child Protection, Marketing and Strategic Thinking.

## What do Governors Do?

Governors in our Schools have these core responsibilities:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos, and strategic direction.
2. Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff.
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.
4. (Academies) Reporting the Academy Trust Board on performance, self-review and operations.

In our Church of England schools Governors have an additional responsibility; to ensure the Trust Deed document, which outlines their role and purpose in preserving and developing the distinctive Christian character and vision, is followed and lived out.

## Key attributes needed

- The ability to question and challenge policies and decisions being put forward by the school to ensure the wellbeing of every member of the school community is at the centre.
- The desire to see every pupil make progress and flourish through the removal of barriers and the promotion of rich opportunities.

- A commitment to providing an education that is shaped by the school's distinctive Christian vision.
- A passion for building community by encouraging and creating connections locally, nationally and globally.
- The ability to think strategically, triangulate information and offer thoughts and wisdom where appropriate.
- A compassionate and enthusiastic 'cheerleader' of the whole school community.

## What might be asked of me?

- Governors will be required to attend meetings in the evening or daytime and carry out pre-arranged visits during school time. 6 meetings per year minimum.
- Following a school visit or meeting, you will be asked to write up your observations, questions and challenges.
- Undertake annual safeguarding training and attend further relevant training through the Diocese and Local Authority or Academy Trust.
- Prepare for governor meetings by reading the papers in advance.
- Contribute during meetings by asking questions or challenging the information being presented.
- Support and attend school events.