Information for Prospective Governors

Governance is an excellent form of volunteering and can be a really rewarding and stimulating experience.

A governor is someone who:-

- is a volunteer, able to serve a term of four years from the date of appointment
- works as a team, sharing responsibility for joint decisions
- supports the day-to-day operational decisions taken by the headteacher;
- represents those people with a key interest in the school, and acts as a link between, parents, staff, the local community and the Local Authority
- is willing to learn and attend training courses (including induction and data training) arranged by the LA and which will improve skills and contribute to personal development

Governors are appointed and elected to provide

- strong links between the school and the community it serves
- an independent view, commitment and enthusiasm
- accountability for the Headteacher and staff of the school
- a focus on long term development and promote continuous improvement
- accountability for the standards of teaching and learning in the school
- a balance between support and challenge for the Headteacher and staff

Governing bodies are the strategic planners of schools – in order to do this a governing body

- sets the aims and objectives for the school
- sets the policies for achieving those aims and objectives
- sets the targets for achieving those aims and objectives
- monitors and reviews the progress the school is making towards achieving its aims and objectives
- is source of challenge and support to the Headteacher
- works together with the Headteacher and staff to make sure the school provides effective teaching and learning and raise standards;
- influences and approves the School Improvement Plan;
- approves and monitors the allocation and expenditure of the budget of the school, and decides how to make best use of this for the benefit of learner's education;
- ensures that the national curriculum is taught and that there are sufficient staff to teach it;
- ensures individual learners' needs are met, including additional needs;
- produces an action plan for improvement following a school inspection;

The time that governors are able to give to the role varies

- There are 4 Full Governing Body Meetings per year which all governors attend
- There are 2 sub-committees and governors choose to be a member of one or the other. They are
  - Curriculum, Standards and Wellbeing 3 meetings annually: one meeting per term
  - Resources and Finance: 4 meetings annually with 2 in the summer term.
- Full GB meetings will be in person at the school 5.30 start. Sub-committees meet virtually at 6.00 pm on Microsoft Teams via the Microsoft Teams app
- All meetings are scheduled for Thursdays
- Governors are given a username and password to access the meetings plus information on how to gain offsite access with Multi Factor Authentication
- There is some online training to fulfil. The clerk will provide information on this aspect.
- The Clerk, Chair and Headteacher will host a welcome meeting and carry out a brief induction with all new governors ahead of any official meetings.

School governors provide strategic leadership and accountability in schools. Each individual governor is a member of a governing body, which is established in law as a corporate body. Individual governors may not act independently of the rest of the governing body. Decisions are the joint responsibility of the governing body.