

How do I become a governor?

If you are interested in knowing more about governance, and perhaps becoming a governor, you can make contact without any commitment:

- as a local resident you can contact Governors Services and ask about becoming a local authority or co-opted governor;
- if you are the parent of a child at the school, ask at the school about vacancies for parent governors;
- if you are a member of staff at a school, ask the head teacher about any appropriate vacancies;
- contact a school and ask to speak to the head teacher, the clerk to the governors or the chair of governors about governor vacancies;
- contact your local community or religious organisation;
- contact the Diocese about being a governor for a church school.

Warwickshire Governor Services

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Warwickshire Schools Need Governors

Could you be one?



Why become a governor?

- because you care about the education that children receive;
- because you want to make an important contribution to your local community;
- because you enjoy a challenging and rewarding role;
- because you are keen to help all children do better at school;
- because you want to help make a difference to schools in Warwickshire.

Who are governors?

A governing board is made up of people from different groups, including parents, teachers and other staff, the local education authority, people co-opted from the local and business community, and usually the head teacher.

Schools with a religious character also have foundation governors.

A governor's term of office usually lasts for four years. The size of the governing board depends on the school's size and type.

What do governors do?

School governors:

- are responsible for the strategic leadership of the school;
- oversee the school's aims, values and ethos;
- promote high standards of educational attainment;
- oversee the school's budget, including deciding how many staff will work there and their pay;
- participate in the appointment of staff (including appointing the head teacher);
- regulate school conduct and discipline.
- monitor pupil achievement;
- ensure compliance with the national curriculum.

How much time does it take?

Governors act as a team but the amount of time that each of them can give to the role will vary. Some people will be able and willing to give a lot of time throughout their service as a governor. Others will find that the amount of time they can give increases or reduces during that period. But if you are serious about helping your school to help children, then you do need to:

- be willing to prepare for meetings: e.g. reading meeting papers in advance;
- attend meetings: the governing board will meet at least once a term, but you may be asked to serve on at least one committee. How often this meets will vary, but it is not unusual for one committee to meet each half-term;
- be able to get to the meeting which, quite often, will be during the evening but which may be early during the day;
- participate: if you cannot prepare for, and attend, meetings you will not be able to help the school effectively;
- visit the school at different times.

What will I get out of being a school governor?

- the knowledge that you have played a part in improving children's education and supported the school's staff;
- a chance to develop new skills and practise existing ones through training and practical experience; these might include chairing meetings, speaking in groups, asking questions, helping to appoint staff, and monitoring the budget;
- a chance to take responsibility for monitoring a particular area of school life as a link governor, such as health and safety, special education needs or an area of the curriculum;
- a chance to help other members of the team, perhaps because they are new, are not used to committee work or need help in learning about the school and about school governance.