

Sir Frederic Osborn School - Governing Body

Role of the Governing Body

The Department for Education states that Governing Bodies –

“...are the strategic leaders of our schools and have a vital role to play in making sure every child gets the best possible education. For maintained schools this is reflected in the law, which states that the purpose of maintained school governing bodies is to ‘conduct the school with a view to promoting high standards of educational achievement at the school’.

In all types of schools, governing bodies should have a strong focus on three core strategic functions:

- a) **Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;**
- b) **Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its students; and**
- c) **Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.**

These functions are reflected in regulations for maintained schools that came into force in September 2013.”

We have a strategic role in the development of the school but are not involved in the day to day management – that is the role of the Headteacher. We are accountable to the wider community for the conduct of the school and in turn hold the school leadership team to account for raising standards and ensuring every child fulfils their potential. We are a diverse group of people with a wide variety of skills and experience which, coupled with our knowledge of the school, we use to challenge and support the leadership team in their work.

Governing Body Constitution

The Governing Body consists of elected Parent Governors, one elected Staff Governor, the Headteacher as ex officio Governor, one Local Authority Governor, Co-opted Governors and sometimes Local Authority Additional Governors.

Type of Governors

Co-opted Governors are appointed by the Governing Body. They are people who in the opinion of the governing body have the skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school.

Parent Governors are elected by other parents at the school. They are representative of the parent body but the views they express at meetings are their own – they need not canvass parental opinion on every issue, or report back to parents on decisions taken: that is the responsibility of the whole of the Governing Body.

Staff Governors are elected by other staff. Anyone who is employed by the school is eligible for election. Like Parent Governors, they are representative of staff but the views they express at meetings are their own – they need not canvass staff opinion on every issue.

The Headteacher is a member of the governing body by virtue of their office.

Local Authority Governors are nominated by the Local Authority, but appointed by the governing body. The Local Authority can nominate any eligible person as a local authority governor, but it is for the governing body to decide whether their nominee has the skills to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school and meets other eligibility criteria.

Governing Body Organisation

The Full Governing Body meets at least four times a year. At each meeting we receive a report from the Headteacher and minutes from various committees. Other items are discussed or approved at specific times of the year for example exam results, plan for school improvement and budget.

The main Governing Body is supported by three main committees who meet once a half term.

- The Resources Committee is concerned with budget and finance, premises and health and safety.
- The Human Resources Committee considers staffing, appraisal and training.
- The Curriculum, Achievement and Well-being Committee deals with standards, curriculum, pastoral care and student well-being, SEND and pupil premium.

There is a Strategy Committee, comprising the Chairs of these committees, plus the Chair of Governors plans the work of the committees. There are sometimes other sub-committees which report to the Governing Body on specific areas,

All Governors are members of at least one of the Committee. We also attend public events such as secondary transfer evening, school play performances, music concerts, the annual Awards Evening and prize giving assemblies. Please come and talk with the Governors while you are at these events.

In addition, each Governor is linked to either a subject, area, or a specific area of school such as Child Protection, SEND. In this role Governors regularly come into school to meet with staff and students.