Learn new skills that benefit the classroom and the boardroom.
About Governors for Schools
Governors for Schools exists to improve educational standards so that children and young people have the chance to realise their full potential. We believe the key to improving school performance is effective governance. By finding, nurturing and supporting a committed network of governors we help to drive systematic change in how schools operate. Since 1999, we have been connecting schools across England with skilled and committed volunteers, supported by our business and university partnerships.

“Trustees and governors are, in my view, the unsung heroes of the system.”

Sir David Carter
National Schools Commissioner

What does a school governor do?
Governors are responsible for overseeing the management side of a school: strategy, policy, budgeting and staffing. They enable their school to run as effectively as possible, working alongside senior leaders and supporting teachers to provide excellent education to children.

Being a school governor is a commitment to attending governing body meetings which consider issues such as setting the school vision, mitigating financial risk and scrutinising educational outcomes. They are also involved in the school community, acting as critical friends to the headteacher and senior leaders.

Governors bring a wide range of skills and expertise from their professional lives to the governing board and schools benefit greatly from working with skilled volunteers, for example anyone with experience of finance, law, premises management or human resources. A governor with business know-how can transform the running of a school.

Core governor responsibilities

Become a governor:
governorsforschools.org.uk/volunteer/apply

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Why become a school governor?

Being a school governor is a chance to experience leadership at board level at any point in one’s career. Governors balance the school’s budget, hire the headteacher and make strategic decisions. The role provides individuals with the opportunity to develop and hone skills such as negotiation, influencing and teamwork.

Volunteers need to be dedicated people who care about improving education, but they do not need prior board experience. It makes the role perfect for professionals looking to improve their business and leadership skills, give back to society and enhance children’s futures.

“I went for a director role within [RICS] and they said that I had all the internal knowledge, but I needed to get more external knowledge and develop my strategic skills. I took that feedback on board and I wanted to give something back […] so I signed up [with Governors for Schools] online and registered my interest.

Sonia Kearns
Governor at Cardinal Newman Catholic School, Coventry

Commitment involved

Term of Office - most governor appointments are for a term of four years.

Travel - you decide the time period you are prepared to travel to and from the school. This could be up to 30 or 60 minutes, or more on occasion.

Liability - governors are not individually liable. Liability is collective and held by the governing body as a whole.

Time per month - governors are expected to attend 3 full governing body and 3 committee meetings per year at a minimum. The preparation, participation and travel for these meetings, and training, will comprise 4-5 hours a month for 9 months of the year, mainly in the evenings. Other involvement such as ad hoc panels and learning walks are not compulsory to attend, but we would strongly recommend you attend as many as possible to maximise your impact as a school governor.
Training and support

We are committed to ensuring newly appointed governors are up to speed and effective in their roles as quickly as possible. We provide a number of services to support you from the start:

- High quality e-learning provision, with a suite of four free modules that are essential training for any governor in their first year.
- Regularly scheduled Business Governor Network sessions providing governors with an opportunity to hear from experts and network with peers.
- Six months’ free membership of The Key for School Governors for you and your fellow governors, an online service that provides practical guidance and resources.

Next steps

Complete our application form online
We will work with you to match you to a suitable governor vacancy in your local area.
geournorsforschools.org.uk/volunteer/apply

Speak to a member of our team
If you have further questions or would like to find out more contact a member of our team on 020 7354 9805

Visit our website
To read case studies and testimonials, watch videos and find out more about governance, visit our website www.governorsforschools.org.uk

“It’s very satisfying because the school seems genuinely appreciative of my work. The school was inspected again by Ofsted in January 2017 and achieved a rating of ‘good’. It was a great sense of achievement, we felt we had been along the journey together as a school and as a governing body.”

Alastair Cowen
Governor at James Brindley School, Birmingham

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