

1. What does a parent governor actually do?

- Attend and contribute to governing board meetings (usually 6–8 per year).
 - Help set the school's strategic direction and priorities.
 - Hold the headteacher and senior leaders to account for educational performance.
 - Oversee the school's finances.
 - Take part in committees, panels (e.g., exclusions, complaints), or working groups if needed.
 - Visit the school to understand its context (not to monitor teaching or raise personal issues).
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2. How much time will it take?

- The time commitment varies depending on the role you take on.
 - Most governors spend between 2 and 6 hours per month on governing duties, which includes:
 - Attending meetings (usually 2 per term)
 - Reading papers and preparing questions
 - Occasional school visits or training sessions
 - If you take on extra responsibilities (such as chairing a committee or being a link governor), it may be closer to 6–8 hours per month, especially in busy periods.
 - Many governors find the workload manageable alongside work and family commitments.
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3. Do I need any special skills or experience?

- No! Enthusiasm, curiosity, and a willingness to learn are most important.
 - Training and support are provided.
 - Boards benefit from a mix of people—skills in finance, HR, education, or business can help, but are not required.
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4. Will I have to speak for all parents?

- No. You contribute your own perspective as a parent, but you are not a delegate or spokesperson for the parent body.
 - If other parents approach you with concerns, direct them to the school's official complaints procedure.
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5. What if I have a complaint about my own child?

- You must use the school's complaints procedure, just like any other parent.
 - You should make clear you are acting as a parent, not as a governor.
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6. What support will I get?

- Induction and ongoing training (including safeguarding).
 - Access to resources and guidance.
 - Support from the chair, clerk, and other governors.
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7. How long does the term last?

- Typically 4 years, but you can resign at any time if your circumstances change.
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8. What if I don't agree with a board decision?

- Raise your concerns in meetings.
 - Once a decision is made, you are expected to support it publicly (collective responsibility).
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9. Will I have to visit the school during the day?

- Some visits may be during school hours, but these are usually arranged to suit your availability and are not frequent.
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10. What about confidentiality?

- You must keep board discussions confidential and not share sensitive information outside meetings.
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11. Can I be a governor if I work at the school?

- Staff can't be parent governors at the same school.
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12. How do I apply?

- Complete the application form (available from the school office).
- Write a brief statement about your interest and what you could bring to the role.
- If more parents apply than there are vacancies, an election will be held.