

## **The Role of a School Governor in a Local Governing Body**

Local Governing Bodies are accountable to parents, the local community and the Trustees. Appointments are for four years. The Local Governing Body's main role is to help raise pupils' standards of achievement.

The Local Governing Body:

- is accountable for the performance of the school to parents and the wider community.
- plans the school's future direction.
- participates in the selection of the head teacher/head of school.
- makes recommendations to the Trust Board on the school's budget and staffing.
- makes sure the agreed Curriculum is well taught.
- decides how the school can encourage pupils' spiritual, moral and cultural development.
- ensures the school provides for all pupils including those with special needs.

Meetings are held throughout the year, generally twice a term although some local governing bodies follow a slightly different pattern. They usually start between 5pm and 6pm and last for two hours. In addition to attending meetings of the local governing body, governors may be asked to carry out visits to the school during the working day, where they will focus on an area of the school's development plan. Governors will be accompanied by another experienced governor or a member of staff and training on the expectations and process of a governor visit will be provided.

Governors are at the heart of how a school operates. It is important they get things right. How they do their job affects the interests of pupils, staff and the reputation of the school in the community. Governors provide support and challenge to head teachers/heads of school by gathering views, asking questions and discussing what is best for the school. They are not there to rubber stamp decisions. They have to be prepared to give and take advice and must be loyal to decisions taken by the Local Governing Body and Trust Board as a whole.

Governors work as a team. They are responsible for making sure the school provides a good quality education for all pupils. Raising educational standards in school is a key priority. This has the best chance of happening when there are high expectations of what pupils can achieve. Governors promote effective ways of teaching and learning when setting the school aims and policies. They do this together with the executive head teacher/head teacher/head of school, who is responsible for the day-to-day management of the school.

People volunteer as School Governors for many reasons – to give something back, to make a difference for young people and to utilise existing skills and experience. If you want to gain skills in a vast array of different areas to help you develop professionally then serving as a school governor can help you towards that goal. When asked to sum up the experience of governing in one word, governors described the role as challenging, interesting and rewarding.