



## THE ROLE

Anyone aged 18 or over and living in the UK can be a governor subject to completing a declaration of eligibility and a DBS check.

Governors do not manage a school day-to-day, but are required to oversee its long-term development.

Ultimately, all governor responsibilities come back to this task and can be split into three



**Ensure accountability**  
Asking the difficult questions and guaranteeing the school is responsible for its actions.

**A champion of success**  
Using your skills and experience to support the school in achieving its aims and recognising good performance.



**Establish a strategic framework**  
Helping to set the school's aims and objectives.

**Monitor and evaluate progress**  
Analysing decisions: are they producing the desired results?



**Allocate and control the school budget.**  
From extra staff training to investing in new buildings or equipment.

**Appoint senior staff.**  
Including the responsibility of appointing a new Deputy Head or Head Teacher.

**There can never have been a more important time in our country's recent history to be involved in education, and we need skilled and motivated governors who are committed to transforming our schools.**

**Lord Nash, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools**

## Shirley High School Being A School Governor

### IT'S ABOUT CHILDREN EDUCATION AND SCHOOLS.

**Make a positive impact on the education of thousands of children and work towards better schools and a better community.**

### Why become a governor?

**If you care about children's education then becoming a governor will help you make a difference. Being a governor helps you to:**

- contribute to the effective running of a school
- help the development of the next generation
- give something to the local community
- develop new skills

## Headlines

### I'm not a parent

You don't need to have children or be a parent of a child at the school to become a school governor.

### Time commitment

The average time commitment is 10-15 hours per term. This includes meetings, background reading and school visits. School governors are like magistrates or members of a jury and therefore have a right to reasonable time off work for their public duties (this may be unpaid). Check with your H.R. department for your company's policy.

### Involvement

At Shirley most Governors are involved each term in two meetings a full Governing Body meeting and a committee meeting these start at 5:00pm and last 1.5 - 2 hrs. Identified Governors have a specific responsibility link with a subject or area within the school which hopefully should be developed by contact with the senior school leader who line manages this responsibility and school visits. Each year we plan a Governors ½ day in school to meet staff, students and be briefed on work in the school. There are number of school activities (performances/open evening etc.) where governing body support is encouraged.

### Term of office

School governors have a term of office of four years. However, as a volunteer you can resign at any time if your circumstances change.

### Training

Governing bodies rely on a variety of experiences and perspectives. No prior knowledge is required. Training and support is available for new and existing governors and is free of charge. We recommend all new governors attend a governor induction programme.

### Different types of governor

The SHS Governing Body has representatives of school staff, parents and members of the community. Despite representing different groups, all governors have exactly the same role and voting rights.

### The legal stuff

Responsibility for actions and decisions lies with the governing body as a whole and not with individual members. As an academy is also a charitable company limited by guarantee, the governors have duties as directors under company law and trustees under charity law.  
As charitable trustee • Duty of Compliance; • Duty of Prudence; and • Duty of Care.  
As directors • Duty to act within powers; • Duty to promote success of the company; • Duty to exercise independent judgement; • Duty to exercise reasonable care, skill and diligence; • Duty to avoid conflicts of interest; • Duty not to accept benefits from third parties; and • Duty to declare an interest in a proposed transaction or arrangement.