

Welcome to Governance in Bolton

What is the role of a governor?

Purpose of the Governing Board

The Governing Board provides strategic leadership and accountability for the school by:

- Setting the school's vision, ethos and strategic direction.
- Holding school leaders to account for educational performance.
- Overseeing the effective use of financial resources.
- Ensuring statutory duties are met.
- Promoting the welfare, safeguarding and achievement of all pupils.

Governors work collectively as a board. Individual governors have no authority to act independently unless specifically delegated by the Governing Board.

Expectations of All Governors

Being a governor is an important role and you will be expected to do the following:

Commitment and Attendance

- Attend full governing board meetings regularly.
- Attend committee meetings where appointed.
- Read meeting papers in advance.
- Participate actively in discussions and decision-making.
- Inform the Clerk and Chair if unable to attend meetings.

Conduct and Professionalism

- Follow the school's Code of Conduct and the Seven Nolan Principles of public life.
- Maintain confidentiality.
- Declare any conflicts of interest.
- Act in the best interests of the school always.

Training and Development

- Complete mandatory safeguarding training.
- Attend any available induction training for new governors.
- Participate in relevant governor development opportunities.

- Keep up to date with changes in education and governance.

Monitoring and Challenge

- Understand school performance information.
- Support and challenge school leaders appropriately.
- Participate in governor visits where agreed.
- Focus on strategic issues rather than operational matters.

Safeguarding

- Understand safeguarding responsibilities.
- Follow school safeguarding procedures during visits.
- Promote a culture of safeguarding and pupil welfare.

Governor Visits

When visiting the school, governors should:

- Arrange visits through agreed procedures.
- Focus on strategic priorities.
- Respect the professional roles of staff.
- Record visits using the school's governor visit form.
- Report findings to the governing board where appropriate.

Governors should not make judgements about individual members of staff or pupils.

By accepting the role of governor, members commit to supporting the Governing Board in providing effective leadership, challenge and accountability for the school.

What is a Parent Governor?

A parent governor is elected by parents or carers of pupils attending the school.

Parent governors are not representatives of individual parents or parent groups.

Their role is to bring a parental perspective to board discussions while acting in the best interests of the whole school.

Parent Governor Responsibilities

Parent governors should:

- Use their understanding of the parent experience to inform discussions.
- Help the board understand the views and concerns of parents where appropriate.
- Support positive relationships between school and families.
- Maintain confidentiality regarding any information gained as a governor.
- Avoid becoming involved in individual complaints or disputes on behalf of other parents.
- Direct parents to the school's formal procedures when concerns arise.
- Make decisions based on the needs of all pupils rather than personal interests.

As a parent governor, you are:

- ✓ A school governor bringing a valuable parental perspective
- ✓ A governor with equal status to all other governors
- ✓ Able to contribute with your own skills and experience
- ✓ Expected to challenge and support appropriately

You are not:

- ✗ A spokesperson for all parents
- ✗ A complaints representative
- ✗ Expected to report governing board discussions back to parents

What is a Staff Governor?

A staff governor is elected by school staff and brings valuable knowledge and understanding of school life to the Governing Board.

Staff governors are not representatives of staff unions or staff groups.

Their role is to contribute strategically to governance while acting in the best interests of the school.

Staff Governor Responsibilities

Staff governors should:

- Bring professional knowledge and understanding of school operations.
- Contribute insights into teaching, learning and school culture.
- Support effective communication between governance and staff perspectives.
- Maintain confidentiality regarding staffing and governance matters.
- Separate their employee role from their governor role.
- Participate fully in discussions and decision-making.

As a staff governor, you are:

- ✓ A school governor bringing a valuable staff perspective
- ✓ A governor with equal status to all other governors
- ✓ Able to contribute professional knowledge and experience
- ✓ Expected to challenge and support appropriately

You are not:

- ✗ A representative for individual staff members
- ✗ A union representative in governing board meetings
- ✗ Expected to disclose confidential board discussions to colleagues

