

# What does a Governor do?

Governors are responsible for working with the head teacher to think strategically about how to raise standards of achievement for all pupils at the school, for setting the budget and for overseeing the curriculum.

They also have powers with respect to the appointment and dismissal of staff and the exclusion and re-instatement of pupils.

## **Governors will:**

- promote high standards of educational attainment
- set targets for pupil achievement
- take general responsibility for the conduct of the school
- manage the school's budget, including deciding how many staff will work there and their pay
- make sure that the curriculum is balanced and broadly based, in particular that the National Curriculum and religious education are taught, and report on pupils' achievement in National Curriculum assessments and examination results
- participate in the appointment of senior staff (including appointing the head teacher) and regulate staff conduct and discipline

## **Why do schools need governors?**

Every school has a governing body to represent the public in the running of schools. School governors bring perspectives from ordinary life and work with the staff and the Local Authority to help secure the best possible education for the children in the school. They have important responsibilities such as managing the school budget, overseeing the curriculum and appointing staff.

## **Are there rules for running a governing body?**

There are no terms of reference or regulations to which a governing body has to adhere. The governing body determines its own terms of reference. There are Terms of Reference Regulations which clarify the prospective roles of both the headteacher and governing body. For these see The Education (School Government) (Terms of Reference) (England) Regulations 2000 (SI2000/2122).

Governing bodies must act as a corporate body. They must also act with integrity, objectivity and honesty and in the best interests of the school. They must be open about, and prepared to explain, their decisions and actions.

The governing body should carry out their functions with the aim of taking a largely strategic role in the running of the school. This includes setting up a strategic framework for the school, setting its aims and objectives, setting policies and targets for achieving the objectives, reviewing progress and reviewing the strategic framework in the light of progress. The governing body should act as a “critical friend” to the head teacher by providing advice and support

The head teacher is responsible for the internal organisation, management and control of the school; and for advising on and implementing the governing body's strategic framework. In particular, head teachers need to formulate aims and objectives, policies and targets for the governing body to consider adopting; and to report to the governing body on progress at least once every school year.