



Could you be a school governor...?

We have three vacancies coming up over the next few months on our school governing body and we would really like to hear from you if you are interested in joining the team. **The key skill you need is enthusiasm for making our school a great place for children to learn and grow**, but if you have particular skills in HR, marketing, finance, supporting well-being of children and staff then that would be a welcome bonus.

Becoming a school governor is a fantastic way to support the community in the village while getting to know the school and be a part of deciding how our wonderful school is run. It is also a valuable experience if you think you'd like to try out being on a board with a view to doing similar role elsewhere e.g. at work / with a charity etc.

The governing body's main tasks are:

- to ensure that the school has a clear vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- to hold the head teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils;
- to oversee the financial performance of the school and make sure its money is well spent.

Myth busting:

"You have to be a teacher or a parent"

Nope - Anyone can be a school governor, as long as you are over 18 and show an interest in the school, what is happening in education and the local community. We are keen for our governing body to represent a wide diversity of views and welcome applications from everyone.

"You have to know about how to run a school"

Nope – governors receive training and are guided by the local authority. We learn along the way and bring skills from other parts of our lives to do the governor tasks. Also, the governor roles are strategic and not about the operational day to day of running the school, **it's about setting direction and making sure our school is set up to be the best it can be.**

"You have to prepare lots of documents and come into school a lot"

Nope – governors do need to be able to attend meetings, usually about one or two per half term, mostly in the evening, but sometimes during the day to see the school in action. Half of the meetings are in school, half are online. You need to prepare for those meetings by reading papers prepared by the school and sometimes write a short report about what you've seen in school on a visit, but the preparation is mainly done by school and the clerk. **The main thing you will need to do is be curious and ask lots of questions about why things are done the way they are, it's all about supportive challenge and holding the school to account.**

If you'd like to know more, please drop a line to the Owslebury Primary School office adminoffice@owslebury.hants.sch.uk

There is also find helpful information for prospective governors on the Hampshire County Council website at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/governors/volunteer>.

Allison Jordan, Chair of Governors