

SCHOOL GOVERNOR'S...MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN MIDDLESBROUGH

School governors represent the largest volunteer force in the country with approximately 1% of the adult population serving in this capacity at any one time. There are various categories of governorship as outlined below:

Categories of Governorship

Parent Governors are elected by their fellow parents and are vital to a governing body because they ensure that the other governors are kept in touch with the concerns and issues of most importance to our parents. To apply for a position as a Parent Governor, you must complete a Nomination Form. When a vacancy arises the school will begin this process and send out forms.

Community Governors must complete an application form, which is then considered by the Governing Body. Devolved local management of schools has influenced the day-to-day managerial function of head teachers and the strategic role of governing bodies. A consequence of this devolvement is that governors recruited from the local community are highly valued for the skills, experience and objectivity that they bring to decision-making.

Local Authority (LA) Representatives are appointed by a group of Councillors to represent the views of the Local Authority.

Characteristics and role of the School Governor

Governors are people who have an interest in the role of schools in society and wish to make a positive contribution to their communities. They will have enquiring minds and contribute to the effective day-to-day running of the school and the educational achievements of its pupils.

A governing body's overriding responsibility is to work in partnership with the Headteacher to promote continuous improvement in the performance of the school. This involves the establishment of a development plan, the setting of challenging but achievable targets and the interpretation of information to assess progress and determine appropriate action. Typically, a governor's duties will average at around six hours of their time each month.

Aligned to its improvement role, the governing body is there to be a 'critical friend' who can provide the right balance between supporting and challenging the performance of both the head teacher and the school.

Training and Support

Middlesbrough Council values the voluntary contribution of its governors and in return aims to provide a high-quality training and support service through its established Governor Development Service. Governors are able to access this support in a variety of ways including training courses and a designated helpline. A regular newsletter is sent to all school governors to keep them informed of any developments within education policies and advises on current best practice.

Becoming a Governor

Being a governor can be stimulating, enjoyable and rewarding. If you have the enthusiasm, time and desire to become closely involved in the running of a school then please contact Richard Painter, Governor Recruitment, Retention and Information Officer on 01642 201985 or e-mail richard_painter@middlesbrough.gov.uk



Middlesbrough
Children and Young People's Trust



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