

The role of a Governor: Commonswood Primary and Nursery School

The role of a School Governor

Governors are part of the school's leadership team and fulfil three important roles:

- Setting the school's vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils; and
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

Expectations of School Governors

School Governors are volunteers and serve on the governing body for four years. Any governor may at any time resign by giving written notice to the clerk. As a Governor you will be expected to attend approximately five meetings of the full Governing body each year. You should also expect to serve on at least one of the Governing Body's Committees (Education or Operations – each meets approximately five times per year). Governing Body and Committee meetings are usually held on a Thursday evening, although Governors are also expected to visit the school outside of meetings in order to monitor progress towards the school's development objectives. You should expect to read and prepare paperwork in advance of meetings and should also attend occasional training courses and/or briefings.

Employers are obliged to allow school governors reasonable time off work to fulfil their duties, although it is at the discretion of employers whether this time is paid or unpaid.

Who are we looking for?

To serve as a Parent Governor, you must have parental responsibility for a child who currently attends Commonswood Primary and Nursery School. Once elected, you may serve your whole term of office, even if your child leaves the school.

School Governors come from all walks of life and do not need a background in education. The Governing Body draws its strength from the different experiences which its members bring. The Governing Body welcomes applications from anyone who:

- Has a passion to drive forward standards at Commonswood;
- Understands the commitments of being a Governor and is willing to undertake their share of the work of the Governing Body;
- Can work effectively as part of a team;
- Is willing to undertake regular training.

In order to help the Governing body to improve its effectiveness, we would especially welcome applicants who have Financial, HR or Legal experience, although these are not essential skills.

What we can offer you

As a new governor, you will be provided with access to a comprehensive induction course. You will be assigned a mentor from within the Governing Body who will help you to understand your role and answer any questions you may have. Throughout your time as a governor you will have access to Hertfordshire governance training courses and all governors are expected to attend at least one training session per year in order to further the collective skills of the governing body.

Further Information

If you would like more information about the role of Parent Governor, please contact the Chair of Governors via the school office.