

Roles and responsibilities - Governors

Governors work as a team. They are responsible for making sure the school provides a good quality education for all pupils. Raising educational standards in school is a key priority. This has the best chance of happening when there are high expectations of what pupils can achieve.

Governors promote effective ways of teaching and learning when setting the school aims and policies. They do this together with the Principal, who is responsible for the day-to-day management of the school.

Governing boards are accountable to parents, the local community and the Trustees. The governing board's main role is to help raise pupils' standards of achievement.

Governors are at the heart of how a school operates. It's important they get things right and the right people are sitting around the table. How they do their job affects the interests of pupils, staff and the reputation of the school in the community.

What do governors do?

Governors support and challenge the Principal by gathering views, asking questions and discussing what's best for the school. They are not there to rubber stamp decisions. They have to be prepared to give and take advice and must be loyal to decisions taken by the governing board as a whole. Governors are accountable to the Trust Board for the decisions they take.

Governors visit the school regularly to see and validate the progress that is being made. They can be linked to specific areas, such as safeguarding, SEND, H&S or may conduct a more general visit or learning walk. Each visit has a focus aligned to the priorities in the development plan.

Governors also visit the school to share in the successes and joy of its pupils and staff at events and celebrations.

The Governing Board:

- is accountable for the performance of the school to parents and the wider community
- plans the school's future direction
- is part of the selection process for the Principal
- ensures money is spent wisely
- makes decisions on the school's staffing including the performance management policy
- makes sure the agreed Curriculum is well taught
- decides how the school can encourage pupils' spiritual, moral and cultural development
- makes sure the school provides for all pupils
- listens to staffing and grievance hearings and exclusion reviews

You will need to have access to a pc or laptop as we aim to reduce printing of paperwork. Communications are sent via email or through a governance e-platform.

How long is the term of office?

Governor appointments are for three years. You may resign at any time, but we hope that you will stay with us and enjoy your governance role.

How and where are meetings held?

At the start of this new academic year, Castle's local governing body meeting was held with a blend of virtual and face to face attendance. We would like to resume wholly face to face meetings as soon as possible. All face-to-face meetings taking place in Castle School will be appropriately socially distanced.

How often do governors meet?

There are between 5-6 meetings each academic year. In special circumstances, an additional meeting could be called. In addition to this, governors are asked to complete a minimum of 3 visits a year in their specific link area or on a focus visit.

What time are the meetings held?

Meetings commence at 4.30pm until around 6pm to accommodate those governors who are working.

I don't have any governance experience, what training will I receive?

Knowledge of governance is not necessary. You will receive training to support you in your role. Training is mostly on-line through the National Governance Association's Learning Links program which will allow you to develop your governance skills at your own pace and in your home environment. We also have a Strategy Day once a year for all Trustees and Governors. Lesley Dalby, Governance Manager, will fully support you to ensure you are able to access any training you feel you need.

How do I apply?

If you are interested in supporting the school as a governor or require additional information, please ring Lesley Dalby on 01670 816111 ext 368 or email Lesley.dalby@ncea.org.uk.