

Schools Need Governors

The Skills Governing Boards need:

Experience has shown that all governors need a strong commitment to the role and to improving outcomes for children, the inquisitiveness to question and analyse and the willingness to learn.

All newly appointed governors should have the skills to contribute to effective governance and the success of the school. Skills could include personal attributes, qualities and capabilities, such as the ability and willingness to learn and develop new skills.

The work of schools is overseen by a governing board which has responsibility for:

- Setting the school's values, vision and strategic aims, agreeing plans and policies, and making creative use of resources
- Monitoring and evaluating performance, acting as a critical friend to the headteacher to support and challenge them in managing the school
- Ensuring that the school is accountable to the children and parents it serves, to its local community, to those who fund and maintain it, as well as to the staff it employs.

What do governors do?

- Set the future direction of the school through agreeing school policies and the school development plan
- Monitor how well the policies are working
- Support and challenge the headteacher
- Report on the school's achievements
- Agree the school budget and oversee spending over the year
- Respond to inspection recommendations
- Appoint senior staff
- Agree targets and monitor performance for the headteacher

There are several different types of governor in a Local Authority maintained school:

- Parent governors – all parents or registered carers of pupils at the school are eligible to stand unless they are an elected member of the Local Authority(LA) or work in the school for more than 500 hours per year. They are elected by parents or carers of pupils registered at the school – *parents should contact the school directly if they are interested in this role*
- Staff governors - elected by staff, anyone paid to work at the school is eligible to be a staff governor – *staff should contact the school directly*
- Co-opted governors – appointed by the governing board. They are people who in the opinion of the governing board have the skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school - *individuals can contact a chosen school directly or apply through Bradford School Governor Service*

- Local Authority governors – nominated by the LA and appointed by the Governing Board - a person is disqualified from appointment as an LA governor if they are eligible to be a staff governor at the school - *individuals should contact Bradford School Governor Service*
- Foundation governors (not in community schools) - appointed by the school's founding body, church or other organisation named in the school's instrument of government. – *contact the school*
- Partnership governors (foundation schools only) - replace foundation governors if the school does not have a founding body
- Associate members (not governors) – appointed by the governing board to attend committee meetings and/or full governing body meetings due to their particular skills or experience.

The School Governor Service provides:

- Support
- Advice
- Training
- Information

to help school governors to carry out their role confidently and effectively.

Vacancies exist at schools across Bradford for all types of governor

Please encourage individuals you come across in your work with schools to take on the valuable and rewarding role of school governor.

For further information contact **School Governor Service** at:

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Prince's Way
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e-mail: school.governor@bradford.gov.uk