

St. Catherine's C of E Primary School, Hoddesdon.

Local Authority Governor vacancies

There are currently no vacancies for a Local Authority governor. If you would be interested in becoming a local authority governor, should a vacancy arise, these are the things you need to know: -

All school governors contribute to the work of the governing board in ensuring high standards of achievement for all children and young people in the school by: -

- 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.

In addition to being responsible for the overseeing the School's vision, accountability and financial performance, the governing board appreciates the need to demonstrate diversity and inclusivity in its own membership, and to scrutinise its own composition and operations from an equality perspective. The need for the board to reflect the community which it serves is acknowledged, together with the benefits that such diversity brings in leading to a more robust, more informed and ultimately more effective governing board.

A local authority governor can be nominated by a local county councillor or your school, but in either case you are essentially appointed by the Local Authority. The local authority has a stake in the success of our schools and appoints governors who are able and willing to work as members of the full governing board to secure the best possible education for children at the school. Parent governors are expected to offer a parent perspective and staff governors a staff perspective when appropriate. All governors need to hear those views which help to inform governing body discussion and decisions. LA governors, therefore, are expected to feed the local authority perspective into governing body discussions. Most of the time you will contribute your personal perspective as a member of the wider community. Although the LA appoints governors as their representatives on the governing body, they must act in the best interests of the school and wider community and they cannot be mandated to take a particular stance on issues. However, awareness and understanding of County Council priorities and policies will enable you to inform the debate and priorities at school level.

As an effective local authority governor, you:

- support the aims of your school;
- visit and get to know your school;

- take on a 'link-governor' role where you work closely with a member of school staff to focus on a particular curriculum area or aspect of school management (e.g. Numeracy, Literacy, Safeguarding, SEND, Finance)
- work in partnership with the headteacher, senior leadership team and other governors to raise standards and improve outcomes for all children;
- prepare for meetings by reading papers beforehand;
- take responsibility for your own learning and development as a governor including attending local authority governor training;
- attend full governing board and relevant committee meetings promptly, regularly, and for the full time;
- read briefings and newsletters for governors, including council policies and priorities for education,
- be loyal to the decisions made by the governing board;
- respect the confidentiality of governing board affairs;
- declare an interest and withdraw from any meeting where you, a partner or close relative or associate stands to gain, or where you are so close to a matter discussed it is difficult to be impartial;
- have regard to the broader responsibilities as a governor of a public institution in regard to promoting accountability for the actions and performance of the governing board.

As a local authority governor you will be expected to take on some specific responsibilities and commit allocated time for meetings on the following basis:

- Attend 4 Full Governing Board Meetings (FGB) each year; one meeting per term (including an additional, Budget meeting, in the summer term). Meetings will be 1 hour 30 minutes to 2 hours in length.
- Join the Resources Committee or School Improvement Committee. These meet once each term for 1 hour to 1 hour 30 minutes.
- Take on a Link Governor role. Link governors meet with school staff, at least once per term, to monitor an aspect of the curriculum or school management.

If you are interested in becoming a local authority governor at St. Catherine's School you can find out more by contacting the Headteacher or the Chair of Governors via admin@stcaths.herts.sch.uk

Regards

P. Falconbridge
Chair of the Governing Board.