

## **The Role of a School Governor**

A school governor is a public volunteer. The main types of governor are parent governors, staff governors and co-opted governors. All governors are equal: no category of governor is any more important or influential than any other. Staff governors exercise a strategic employee voice on a school's governing board.

### **What does a governor do?**

The role of a school governor is to contribute to the work of the governing board in ensuring high standards of achievement for all children and young people in the school.

### **Expectations of the role**

As a governor you are expected to:

- Have a real interest in education and developing positive outcomes for all children
- Get to know the school: its needs, strengths and areas for development
- Prepare for, and attend meetings (full School Committee meetings and any working groups)
- Actively contribute as a member of a team
- Speak, act and vote in the best interests of the school
- Use your personal and professional skills to support the school
- Respect all School Committee decisions and to support them in public
- Act within the framework of the policies of the School Committee and legal requirements
- Observe and follow the School Committee's Code of Conduct and confidentiality requirements
- Commit to training and development opportunities

### **Activities - As part of the governing body, a governor is expected to:**

1. Contribute to the strategic discussions at School Committee meetings which determine:
  - the vision and ethos of the school;
  - clear and ambitious strategic priorities and targets for the school;
  - that all children, including those with special educational needs, have access to a broad and balanced curriculum;
  - the expenditure of the pupil premium allocation;
  - the school's staffing structure and key staffing policies;
  - the principles to be used by school leaders to set other school policies.

2. Hold the senior leaders to account by monitoring the school’s performance; this includes:
  - agreeing the outcomes from the school’s self-evaluation and ensuring they are used to inform the priorities in the school improvement plan;
  - considering all relevant data and feedback provided on request by school leaders and external sources on all aspects of school performance;
  - asking challenging questions of school leaders;
  - ensuring senior leaders have arranged for the required audits to be carried out and receiving the results of those audits;
  - ensuring senior leaders have developed the required policies and procedures and the school is operating effectively according to those policies;
  - acting as a link governor on a specific issue, making relevant enquiries of the relevant staff, and reporting to the School Committee on the progress on the relevant school priority; and
  - listening to and reporting to the school’s stakeholders: pupils, parents, staff, and the wider community, including local employers.
  
3. Ensure the school staff have the resources and support they require to do their jobs well, including the necessary expertise on business management, external advice where necessary, effective appraisal and CPD (Continuing Professional Development), and suitable premises, and that the way in which those resources are used has impact.

The role of a governor is largely a thinking and questioning role, not a doing role. This means that it is a strategic role, not an operational role in school.

### **Time commitment**

Governor appointments are for a term of four years.

We have six schools within Greensand Multi-Academy Trust (“the Trust”):

Dovers Green Infant School	Reigate School
Holmesdale Community Infant School	St John’s Primary School
Milton Mount Primary School	Wray Common Primary School

School governing boards are called School Committees in the Trust and each school has one. The School Committees meet twice in each of the Autumn, Spring and Summer terms in every academic year. Occasionally, an extraordinary meeting might need to be called for an urgent decision to be made or important business that has arisen to be discussed.

We are looking to recruit dynamic and positive individuals to become governors and sit on one of our School Committees.

The roles are voluntary and are both rewarding and fulfilling. Becoming a governor will enable individuals to make a worthwhile and valuable contribution to the local community and to have a positive impact on the education of local children. Such roles also afford good

opportunities for personal growth and continuing professional development. The link to the Trust website is below in case you wish to learn a little more about the Trust, our schools and our vision and ethos:

[Home | Greensand Multi-Academy Trust \(greensandacademytrust.co.uk\)](https://www.greensandacademytrust.co.uk)

## **Training**

All governors are expected to undertake training to support them in their role. Governors do not fund training from their own pocket. All new governors are strongly recommended to undertake face-to-face induction training within the first 6 months of becoming a governor. This will give you the opportunity to meet other new governors and clarify the role and responsibilities in more detail.

**If you are interested in further exploring becoming a governor, or have any questions about the role, please contact Emma Salisbury, the Lead Governance Professional for Greensand MAT:**

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