

CATEGORIES OF GOVERNORS

All governing bodies have a core group of governors consisting of:

- ☐ parent governors;
- ☐ teacher governors;
- ☐ staff governors;
- ☐ LA governors;
- ☐ the headteacher (acting in the capacity of a governor where this is his/her choice).

In addition, governing bodies will also consist of some of the following governors, depending on the type of school:

- ☐ community governors;
- ☐ additional community governors;
- ☐ representative governors;
- ☐ foundation governors;
- ☐ partnership governors;
- ☐ sponsor governors;
- ☐ associate pupil governors (secondary schools only).

The core responsibilities of the governing body are:

- ☐ promoting high standards of educational achievement and behaviour;
- ☐ setting targets for pupil achievement;
- ☐ ensuring that all learners have access to a broad and balanced curriculum;
- ☐ determining the aims, policies and priorities of the school;
- ☐ determining and monitoring the school's budget;
- ☐ staffing – e.g. staff appointments, performance management;
- ☐ providing parents with information regarding the school;
- ☐ producing an action plan and monitoring progress following an inspection by Estyn;
- ☐ the wellbeing and safeguarding of learners.

All governors:

- ☐ are elected / appointed to serve a term of office of 4 years;¹

¹ Parent governors at nursery schools serve a term of two years.

The community council who appoints the additional community governor determines the term of office, up to a maximum of 4 years. Foundation governors are appointed for a maximum term of office of 4 years.

- ☐ are entitled to exercise the same powers, duties and responsibilities as other governors and have the same rights as other governors;

- ☐ are required, like other governors, to exercise their own best judgement when contributing to the decisions of the governing body;

- ☐ are not mandated to represent the views of the persons that elected or appointed them with which the governor does not agree;

- ☐ are eligible to be disqualified from completing their term of office if they fail to attend governing body meetings for more than 6 months, without the governing body's consent;²

☒ can be suspended by the governing body by resolution, for all or any meetings of the governing body for up to six months for reasons as noted in Regulation 49 of The Government of Maintained Schools (Wales) Regulations 2005;³

☒ cannot disclose details of discussions which are unlikely to be recorded in the minutes, even if their report concerns matters that have not been deemed by the governing body to be confidential;

☒ cannot act individually unless a specific task has been formally allocated to them by the governing body, giving power to the individual governor to act on its behalf;

☒ cannot play a part in the governing body's decision making when they have a personal and / or pecuniary interest in the outcome of the decision.

Parent governors

Parent governors are elected as representatives of the interests of parents of pupils currently attending the school. A parent governor can continue to serve as a governor until the end of their four year term of office, even if their child leaves the school during their period of office, however they cannot nominate themselves for re-election if they no longer have children registered to attend the school. Parent governors cannot be removed from office before they have served their term of office.

Parent governors can express their personal views at governing body meetings and cannot be mandated by the parents they represent to support a particular position with which the parent governor does not agree.