



What does a school governor do?

School governors are member of governing bodies, whose purpose is to help provide the best possible education for pupils at their schools. Their main function is to raise standards, monitoring progress against the targets they set.

The governing body meets regularly and works with the head teacher and the staff to decide the school's aims and policies and to oversee the efficient running of the school.

The governors work in partnership with the school and the Local Authority and have particular responsibility for:

- Setting aims and planning for the future of the school
- Agreeing targets to raise standards of achievement
- Ensuring the curriculum for the school promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of the pupils
- Managing the school budget by providing the head teacher with guidance, setting priorities and budget monitoring
- Staffing issues including appointing the head teacher and other staff and determining salaries
- Deciding the school's policies on issues including admission and the length of the school day
- Making sure all pupils have equal opportunities within the school and providing for pupils with special educational needs
- Ensuring there is a high standard of maintenance of the school's premises
- Dealing with complaints about the school

Who can be a school governor?

Governors are usually appointed for 4 years and the number varies according to the school's type and size.

The committees are made up of staff, representatives from the LA and parents of children at the school elected by other parents.

Other governors are people from different walks of life who may have business or other skills. Often just by asking straightforward critical questions of the school they can have as valuable an influence as the education professionals with whom they work.