

The Governing Body

School governors are ordinary people from the local community who wish to make a positive contribution to children's education. They are the largest volunteer force in the country.

All maintained schools in England have a Governing Body. It is responsible for overseeing many of the strategic decisions of the school and has an important part to play in raising school standards through acting as a 'critical friend' - supporting, challenging and asking questions.

The Governing Body's three key roles are:

- Setting and ensuring clarity of vision, ethos, and strategic direction;
- Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its children, and the effective and efficient performance management of staff; and
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent

Schools need governors with a range of skills and interests so almost anyone can become a school governor. All new governors receive training and support from the school, the Local Authority and other governors. If you are interested in assisting our school in this way, please contact the office for further details.

George Spicer's Governing Body is drawn from various sections of the community.

- LA Governor: x 1
- Parent governors: x 2
- Staff governors: x 2 (including the Headteacher)
- Co-opted governors: x 6

Organisation of the Governing Body

The Governing Body works in close partnership with the Headteacher, staff and the Local Authority. Whilst the Headteacher is responsible for the day to day running of the school, the governors are involved with strategic matters.

In order to carry out their responsibilities, governing bodies must hold at least three meetings each academic year. George Spicer's Governing Body usually meets four times a year. The agenda is influenced by national changes, the local authority and the school.

Governors carry out much of their business through committees which make decisions on its behalf and act as a clear channel of communication to inform the wider work of the full governing body. As of November 2020, George Spicer has two committees which meet termly: **(could have a link to committee info)**

- Curriculum and Achievement Committee
- Finance and Staffing Committee

There are also two strategic groups:

- Health and Safety
- Vulnerable Pupils

Small groups of governors (panels) are involved with matters such as appointing a headteacher, staff grievances and formal complaints procedures; while some individual governors have responsibilities for specific areas within the school, for example safeguarding, Pupil Premium or GDPR (data protection). Terms of Reference outline the specific responsibilities of the full governing body and its committees.

Governors need to:

- Act in the best interests of the schools. (this is a legal duty) Where there are personal or financial interests, which may conflict with this duty, they must identify, prevent and record the conflict. Generally, governors must not be involved in discussions or vote on matters to which their conflict relates.
- Sign and/or review a register of interests at the start of every meeting. Governors must also declare personal or other interests which might be a potential source of conflict.
- Have an Enhanced DBS certificate (criminal record check processed by the Disclosure and Barring Service). New governors must apply for a check within 21 days of their appointment.
- Abide by the seven Nolan principles of public life
- Attend meetings regularly