

Foundation Governor

Ambitious, experienced in Finance, Catholic and available for 9 meetings per year? We're looking for a new School Governor to join our Board! You might be a former St Francis pupil now established in a career, school parent, somebody professionally connected to us or simply interested in giving something back to the community.

School governors are one of the largest volunteer forces in the UK. They provide schools with strategic leadership and accountability for educational and financial performance.

The three core functions of a school governing board are to:

- Hold school leaders to account for the educational and financial performance of the school

Governors create robust accountability for school leaders through rigorous analysis of performance data and financial information.

- Set the school's vision and values, and the strategy for achieving this vision

The school's vision centres on pupil progress and achievement. Working with senior leaders, the board sets strategic objectives to help the school reach its goals.

- Ensure the school's financial success and probity

The governing board must ensure that the budget delegated to the school by the local authority is managed effectively, and with regard to value for money.

Responsibilities

- Develop the school's vision and strategy
- Set a culture of high educational standards, which promotes staff and pupil wellbeing
- Ensure the school follows the National Curriculum, and that all pupils, including those with special educational needs (SEN), can access the curriculum
- Monitor provision for pupils with SEN
- Monitor the school's educational performance, using a range of data sources
- Ensure stakeholders (parents, pupils, staff, the local community) are informed and consulted as appropriate
- Approve the school budget
- Monitor and evaluate the school's financial performance
- Approve and review school policies, and hold staff to account for their implementation
- Ensure the school is compliant with legal requirements, including that all statutory policies and documents are in place
- Carry out the appointment and performance management of the headteacher
- Monitor and evaluate the school's staffing structure(s)
- Monitor health and safety in the school
- Work in co-operation with the local authority and Clifton Diocese, having regard to any guidance it issues

Skills and experience

Essential:

- Understanding of data
- Finance and/or accounting knowledge
- Critical listening and ability to ask effective questions
- Strategic thinking
- Excellent communication
- Problem-solving and analysis

Desirable:

- HR experience
- Knowledge of education
- Leadership and management skills
- Risk management skills
- Legal expertise
- Marketing and communications skills

Time commitment

The time commitment for school governors will vary. However, all governors must attend at least three meetings of the full board per year. The term of office is four years.

Usually governors sit on a committee focused on an area they have knowledge of, or are particularly interested in, for example the resources committee. Committees generally meet up to six times a year.

Preparation for meetings includes reading papers and preparing questions for senior leaders.

You will also be expected to undertake any training required to enable you to discharge your role effectively.

Governors are also expected to visit the school while it is open to pupils at least three times per year.

If you would like to know more about becoming a school governor, get in touch with the chair of governors, Ann Tarr:

Email: cog@stfrancispri.org.uk

Phone: 07815 751 556