



Bowburn Primary School Parent Governor Information

Introduction

Thank you for your interest in being a governor at Bowburn Primary School. This form contains some introductory information about being a school governor and the level of commitment we expect from someone in this role. We also need you to provide some further information about yourself, so that we can ensure that our governing body contains a good mix of the skills, interests and expertise we need.

What does a governor do?

A school governor contributes to the work of the governing body by ensuring high standards of achievement for all children in the school by:

- setting the school's vision, ethos and strategic direction
- holding the Head Teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils
- overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent

The role of governor is largely a thinking and questioning role, not a doing role. You are not there to manage the school, fundraise or do the jobs of school staff.

In law, the governing body is a corporate body which means that:

- no governor can act on his/her own without proper authority from the full governing body
- all governors carry equal responsibility for decisions made
- the overall concern of all governors (whichever route they come from) must be the welfare of the school as a whole

Seven principles of public life

We expect all governors to uphold the seven principles of public life (the Nolan principles) which form the basis of the ethical standards expected of all public office holders: selflessness, integrity; objectivity; accountability; openness; honesty; and leadership.

Governor person specification

We expect all governors to be able to demonstrate the following essential qualities and attributes (adapted from the NGA skills audit checklist):

- commitment to improving education for all pupils
- ability to work in a professional manner as part of a team and to take collective responsibility for decisions
- willingness to learn and to engage in training and development
- commitment to the school's vision and ethos and to the democratic values of freedom, tolerance and respect for the rule of law
- literacy, numeracy and IT skills, sufficient to deal with governing body papers and school data



Across the Governing Body as a whole, we are also looking to ensure that a range of specialist skills are covered (but we do not expect any individual governor to have all of these), including:

- understanding and experience of governance
- strategic planning; human resources and performance management
- data analysis; financial planning/budgeting
- community engagement and volunteering; legal understanding
- premises and property management
- experience of working in education/social care/health settings

Time commitment

We expect a governor to be committed to regular attendance at, and contribution to, governing body meetings and associated committees. Typically, a governor will need to spend between 10 and 20 days each year on governor responsibilities. For new governors, the time commitment will be at the lower end of this range, while more experienced governors are likely to spend more time on the role.

At Bowburn, we currently hold three full governing body meetings each year, which are usually on a Thursday at 4pm, and last for approximately two hours. All meetings are usually held at the school and dates are set on an annual cycle.

Each governor also serves as a member of one of the Governing Body committees. Committees meet 1-2 times each term.

Under Section 50 of the Employment Rights Act 1996, if you are employed you are entitled to reasonable time off to undertake public duties, including school governance. 'Reasonable time off' is not defined in law, so you will need to clarify with your employer how much time you will be allowed.

Training and development

We expect all governors new to the role to complete the Durham County Council Induction training course which is paid for by the school. In addition, we expect all governors to attend other relevant training and development sessions, including those provided as part of governor meetings at the school.

The school also requires all governors to undertake a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) enhanced check.

If you wish to apply for the role, kindly contact the school office either in person or via email at bowburnprimary@durhamlearning.net to request an application form.