

BECOME A SCHOOL

GOVERNOR



INFORMATION PACK



LIONHEART
EDUCATIONAL TRUST



Becoming a Governor

Becoming a Governor can be an incredibly rewarding experience, providing an opportunity to make a real difference to the education and life chances of young people in your local community. Governors play a vital role in ensuring that schools provide a high-quality education for all students and operate effectively and efficiently.

What does the role of a Governor involve?

Governors offer strategic guidance to our school, this typically involves:



Working with other members of the Governing Body to ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.



Overseeing the school's financial performance, ensuring money is well-spent.



Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the effective and efficient performance management of staff.



Working with the school's leadership team to challenge existing processes to drive school improvement.



When required, serve on panels of the Trust to review suspensions and exclusions and complaint outcomes and appeals.

Becoming a Governor requires drive and commitment, and you'll enjoy many professional and personal rewards, including career development opportunities and the chance to support young people's futures.

Types of School Governors

Governors are appointed for 4 years. The aim is to have a diverse team with a wide range of work and life experience, to add value by seeing the world of the school from different perspectives.



Community Governors – appointed by the existing Governors based on having the skills and experience to complement the existing team. Each governing body has a maximum of 7 (ideally 4-7) community Governors.

Parent Governors – elected through a formal election process. Every Governing Body must have 2 parent Governors.

Staff Governors – elected through a formal election process and voted for by staff members.

Ex Officio Governors – the Headteacher / Principal and any Associate Headteacher / Associate Principal are automatically Ex-Officio Governors.

“Being a Governor makes you feel that you’re giving back and it brings some of your own skills to the surface that you may not have realised you even had.”

- Lionheart School Governor

Who can become a Governor?

You don’t need to be a parent or teacher to volunteer as a Governor. Schools seek individuals with a range of skills to ensure their boards operate effectively. Whether you’re an experienced professional or just entering the initial phases of your career, we are dedicated to aligning you with one of our schools. If you’re over 18 and willing to devote some of your time to improving educational standards, we encourage you to apply.

It is important to have governors reflective (but not necessarily representatives) of the community a school serves. Diversity can help with better scrutiny and decision making in the interests of pupils. **We welcome Governors from a diverse range of backgrounds, skills and experience to join our team.**

Frequently asked questions



What's in it for me?

It's an excellent form of volunteering and can be both rewarding and stimulating. Becoming a governor offers opportunities to learn new skills and work with others to improve educational outcomes, whilst looking great on your CV.

You will also be able to access training courses and enjoy several Lionheart benefits, including free gym membership at Beauchamp College.

How long is the term of office for a Governor?

The usual term of appointment is four years, and you can apply to be re-appointed for a second term. As a volunteer you can resign at any time if your circumstances change.

What is the difference between being a Governor of a primary school and a secondary school?

The core principles of governance remain the same. The only difference is the numbers of pupils on roll, size of budget and age of students.

At what time of day are meetings usually held and where will they be?

Governor meetings are usually held in the evenings (times of meetings may vary from school to school). Most Trust schools have two meetings online (using Teams) and two in person each year.

What practical impact does a Governor have?

School Governors act as the eyes and ears of the Trust and ensure that the school fits the community it is serving. This is done through acting as the critical friend that challenges when appropriate as well as advocating for the school within the community. The guidance and perspective Governors offer has a very important place in moulding how the school functions in the local setting.

As a Governor, what school events can I get involved with?

Governors are often invited to attend school events such as Christmas concerts and school performances or even invited in for lunch. You may be invited to join a judging panel or support with mock interviews and careers advice.

How much time do you need to commit?

The average time commitment is around 3-5 hours per term for the local Governing Body meeting and background reading. An additional 5-10 hours for school visits and support with school events and panels is encouraged.

How to apply?

If you are interested in applying to become a Governor, please email lht-governance@lionhearttrust.org.uk to find out more about our current vacancies.

