



# FAIRFORD CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Isaiah 49:16 'I have written your name on the palms of my hands'.

Actively learning together in a safe, happy environment shaped by the certainty that each individual is loved and known by God.

## Have you ever considered becoming a Governor of your local Primary School?

- Would you like to learn about how decisions are made about children's education?
- Would you like to give something back to your community?
- Have you got a financial background or experience of working in a business environment?
- Could you chair a committee?
- Would you like to add skills to your CV?
- Can you spare 6 to 8 hours a month (term time only)?

**If you can say yes to any of the above then we would love to meet you!**

**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.**

We have vacancies on our governing board which we are seeking to fill as soon as possible.

This is a very important and rewarding role. There is currently a national vacancy rate of 10% for governors in schools so your nomination means a lot to us!

**We encourage applications from all members of society, regardless of background, gender, ethnicity, disability or age (as long as you're over 18).**

Our governors serve a four-year term of office and bring a very important and valued perspective to the work of the governing board. Could you be one of them?

The governing board has a vital role to play in making sure every child receives the best possible education. This is achieved by ensuring that governors have the necessary skills and commitment to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school.

**The 3 core functions of a school governing board are to:**

- > Ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- This means that you need to make sure your school has a clear idea of what it wants to achieve, and a plan for how to achieve it



Fairford C of E Primary School, The Park, Leafield Road, Fairford, GL7 4JQ

[www.fairford.gloucs.sch.uk](http://www.fairford.gloucs.sch.uk)



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- Your role is to help set and embed your school’s vision, ethos and strategy, and use these to monitor how the school is doing
- > Hold executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the effective and efficient performance management of staff
- This means you need to make sure that school leaders are using their professional judgement properly and managing the performance of staff and pupils effectively
- You also need to make sure that the information you get from your school leaders is accurate
- > Oversee the financial performance of the school and make sure money is well spent
- Your role here is to monitor your school’s finances and make sure the school is achieving value for money
- Ultimately, you need to be sure that public money is spent correctly in the best interests of your pupils

**As a governor you would have a range of key responsibilities:**

- > Develop the school’s vision and strategy
- > Set a culture of high educational standards that promotes staff and pupil wellbeing
- > Set the school’s strategic aims and objectives
- > Ensure the school follows the National Curriculum, and that all pupils, including those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), can access the curriculum
- > Monitor provision for pupils with SEND
- > Monitor the school’s educational performance, using a range of data sources
- > Make sure stakeholders (parents/carers, 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
- > Make sure 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
- > Be a source of challenge and support to the Headteacher
- > Monitor and evaluate the school’s staffing structure
- > Monitor health and safety in the school
- > Work in co-operation with the local authority, having regard to any guidance it issues



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**We are looking for people from our local community who may have some or all of the following skills:**

- > Critical listening and ability to ask effective questions
- > Strategic thinking
- > Excellent communication
- > Problem solving and analysis
- > Understanding of data
- > Finance and/or accounting knowledge
- > HR experience
- > Knowledge of education
- > Leadership and management skills
- > Risk management skills
- > Legal expertise
- > Marketing and communications skills

### **What's in it for me?**

We have plenty of relevant online and face to face training courses on offer to guide you on your governor journey and an existing board of experienced governors to be by your side. You will be given a mentor when you first start to work with.

New skills you'll gain:

- > Strategic planning
- > Experience on a board
- > Holding senior leaders to account and the ability to provide challenge
- > Finance, and maintaining oversight of potentially multimillion-pound budgets
- > Analysing data
- > Human resources and performance management
- > Project management
- > Marketing
- > Communication and teamwork
- > Decision-making
- > Problem solving



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The particular skills that governing boards need will vary and will include personal qualities and capabilities, such as the capacity and willingness to learn and work as part of a team. It is expected that governors will make use of the various training opportunities available to them and play a full part in the work of the governing board.

### **What we will want from you:**

The time commitment for school governors will vary. However, all governors are expected to attend at least 6 meetings of the full board per year. The term of office is 4 years.

Governors also sit on a committee and become a link governor for an area they have knowledge of, or are particularly interested in – for example, the finance committee or the SEND link governor. Committees generally meet up to 3 to 4 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 3 times per year.

**If you would like to know more about becoming a school governor, please get in touch with us either in person at the school office or via email; [enquiries24@fairford.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries24@fairford.gloucs.sch.uk)**

### **We would love to hear from you.**

(You might like to look at the information for prospective governors on the Gloucestershire County Council website [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/schoolsnet/governors](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/schoolsnet/governors))



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