

The Role of the Parent Governor

Parents of pupils on the school roll elect parent governors who must be parents of a child on the school roll at the time of their election. Parent governors do not have to stand down if their child leaves the school during the period they serve; they may serve out their term of office.

Although elected by parents, parent governors are not obliged to express any views apart from their own. However, it is important they try to represent the views of parents on major issues to the governing body, where appropriate. A parent governor is therefore a representative, but not a delegate

Other parents sometimes approach parent governors with complaints about the school. These should be referred directly to the headteacher or the most appropriate member of staff without the parent governor becoming involved, unless to help make the appointment with the headteacher.

The Governing Body has a clear policy and procedure for dealing with concerns and complaints and this is available on the school web site. Governors have adopted the local authority model policy.

The governing body should agree what decisions arising from governors' meetings can be shared with parents (not who said what), unless the matter is confidential. If the matter is confidential it should not be shared with anyone else.

If the matter is sensitive, the governing body should discuss and agree how the information will be communicated. The governing body as a whole has a responsibility for communication with parents.

Any Governor should declare an interest and withdraw from any meeting where they, a partner or close relative or associate stands to gain, or where they are so close to a matter discussed it is difficult to be impartial.