



Being A School Governor at The Dell

By law, every school in Wales must have a governing body. A governing body has three main roles which are all strategic:

- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.
- Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils.
- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.

Composition of the governing body

Every school's governing body is made up of different categories of governor. This is to ensure the interests, perspectives and views of all stakeholders can be represented in the strategic oversight of the school. Once elected, each governor will undertake the same general role, but their views, backgrounds, interests and skills will be equally valuable and helpful to the school. The 'types' of governor in each school are: Parent, Community, Local Authority, Staff (teaching), Staff (non-teaching) and Headteacher. The number of governors in each category does not change though, for example, a parent can be elected as a 'community' governor if the rest of the body agree. The Dell governing body is made up of 14 governors who fit into several categories which ensure representation within and beyond the school. Whichever role governors serve in, they will be part of the governing body for a four-year term. Many people choose to serve multiple terms (parents' governors are always elected by a ballot of parents), however as a volunteer you can resign before your term is finished if your circumstances change.

Leadership

The governing body is an important part of the school's leadership capacity and provision and as such, their work and effectiveness are routinely evaluated as part of the school's periodical inspection by Estyn, Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education & Training in Wales when judging the quality of the school's overall leadership.

Commitment

The UK average time commitment for a governor is five to eight hours per month, although it will vary depending on the needs of the school and the role you play on the governing body. This includes meetings, background reading and school visits. As well as full governing board meetings, the school has various committees and link governor roles.

Like magistrates or members of a jury, school governors have a right to reasonable time off work for their public duties, although this may be unpaid. Your company's HR department will be able to tell you about its policy. Governance is a voluntary role and therefore it is not paid. The Dell Primary School does not pay expenses to governors for any aspect of their role.

Expectations

Before prospective governors take on this role, we feel it's right to lay down what will be expected of them as a member of The Dell governing body.

- You are required to complete a business interest declaration; a contact details form and undergo a DBS check.
- You are required to undertake mandatory training, held throughout the school year at a choice of locations.
- You will be provided with an on-line Hwb account to access resources, training schedules and so forth.
- You are expected to attend every full governing body meeting or if you are unable to, to offer apologies. These meetings take place once per half term and are expected to last a maximum of 2 hours. These take place from 6- 8pm on a Tuesday evening, at the school.
- You are expected to meet with individuals or a group of staff as a link governor to ensure you understand an area or aspect of the school's work and write a meeting record to inform the rest of the governing body. Meetings will last no longer than an hour and will usually take place no more than once per term. These usually take place during or at the end of the school day.
- You are expected to be available to attend any governing body team or committee meetings that you will be made part of, which will usually last no longer than an hour. These will usually be during the school day or immediately before the main governing body meeting.
- You are expected to read all papers relating to forthcoming meetings or visits and to be able to contribute to discussions in meetings.

Dates for all meetings will be set at the AGM each year. Statutory Committees will be convened as/if required