



Asterdale Primary School – Information about School Governors

The role of the School Governor

School governors have a varied and important role helping the school run effectively. They have three core functions:

- Planning the vision and strategic direction of the school.
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and ensuring money is well spent.
- Holding the Headteacher or school leadership to account to ensure that every pupil has the best possible education.

In practice this means looking at information and evidence in order to have conversations and ask school leaders questions about the school.

The governor role is strategic rather than operational. Governors don't get involved with the day to day running of a school, instead supporting and challenging the school's leadership team to drive improvement.

To fulfil the role you will need to:

- Attend regular meetings.
- Visit the school occasionally.
- Do some background reading.
- Take part in induction training and ongoing development.

There are no specific qualifications or requirements for the role – every governing board needs a balance and diversity of knowledge, skills and experience. Effective governors do not need educational expertise but do need to be committed to their school, willing to ask questions, to both challenge and support the head teacher. Governors are not expected to be school leaders or school inspectors but to have a passion and interest in our local community and the children within the school and wider community.

Asterdale Primary School Local Governing Board

Governing boards are made up of several categories of school governors who are elected or appointed in different ways. These include staff governors, parent governors and co-opted governors.

The Asterdale Primary School Local Governing Board consists of the following number of Governors:

Headteacher

5 Co-opted Governors

2 Parent Governors

1 Staff Governor

Asterdale Governors attend around six meetings per year. These take place in school and usually last for about two hours. Meeting dates are set a year in advance. Meeting papers are sent out at least seven days prior to the meeting. All governors receive a school email address and access to Governorhub.

Governors are provided with access to The National Governance Association and The Key for School Governors.

How much time will it take up?

The normal term of office for a school governor is four years but governors are volunteers who can leave at any time. They can also be re-appointed or re-elected.

The amount of time will vary depending on how much you are able and willing to give to the role. However you should be prepared to:

- attend meetings.
- visit the school in order to become better informed.
- read through papers and minutes prior to the meeting so that you are prepared for any discussions.
- attend training to develop your skills as a governor.

Why become a school governor?

Volunteers tell us that the benefits of being a governor are immense. These benefits include:

- Developing your professional skills and experience such as strategic planning, chairing, financial planning, and team working, all of which are valued by employers and can assist your own career development;
- Building relationships and networks in your locality and;
- Supporting children and young people in your community.