

BECOMING A SHELDON SCHOOL PARENT GOVERNOR

What do School Governors do?

School governors are volunteers who help to run the school. Governors do not run the school day to day but are involved in decisions about all aspects of managing the school – such as running buildings and budgets, supporting staff and setting standards of school discipline. Governors also help to make decisions about the school's long-term goals. They support Headteachers, but also ask questions and make sure the Headteacher is taking the school in the right direction.

What does the role involve?

Governors serve for a four-year term. Elected Parent Governors may continue to serve out their term of office if their child leaves the school.

Being a Governor does take up time. There are six Governing Body meetings a year, and Governors usually serve on a committee, which meets up to six times a year. You will need to set aside time to be able to be an effective governor: time to prepare for meetings, for visiting the school and undertaking training. It is estimated that Governors work for between 6-8 hours per month. The Department for Education has issued a Competency Framework for Governors setting out the skills, knowledge and behaviours that academy governing boards need to be effective. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/governance-handbook>

As Sheldon is an Academy its governors are also Directors of the company that is Sheldon School. We comply with the Academies Financial Handbook <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/academies-financial-handbook> and Charities Commission guidance. <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/charity-commission>

If you would like to find out more about being a governor further information is available at Governors for Schools <https://www.governorsforschools.org.uk/volunteers/>. If you would like to speak to one of our current governors, or have any other queries, please get in touch with the Clerk to the Governors at jhawtin@sheldonschool.co.uk

Who can be a Parent Governor?

Anyone who has parental responsibility and is over the age of 18 is eligible to stand for election, including parents who work at the school provided that they work for less than 500 hours per year when they are elected.

'Parent' is defined as including 'any individual who has or has had parental responsibility for, or cares or has cared for, a child or young person under the age of 18'. It includes a person who the child lives with and who looks after the child, irrespective of what their relationship is with the child. This must be someone involved in the full-time care of the child on a settled basis.

There are some circumstances that disqualify an individual from serving as a school governor and this list is available on request.

How to nominate yourself

When there is a vacancy please complete the nomination form. You may write a brief candidate statement (200 words maximum) to support your nomination although this is not compulsory. You may wish to include evidence of the extent to which you possess the skills and experience the governing body desires, your commitment to undertake training to acquire or develop the skills to be an effective governor and how you plan to contribute to the future work of the governing body. This should be emailed to the Clerk to the Governors. If the number of nominations is the same as or less than the number of vacancies then candidates are elected unopposed and there is no need for a ballot. If there are more nominations than vacancies a ballot will take place, and the candidate statements will be circulated with the ballot papers.

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