



## The role of a school governor

### Governors' Main Roles

Governors are responsible for monitoring and evaluating the school's performance and providing strategic direction for the school. To do this they visit school regularly, attend meetings and review policies and other school documents. They also support the Head Teacher by acting as a critical friend and have a role in recruiting new staff, complaint handling and the Head Teacher's Performance Management, ensuring accountability. At KWS, all Governors regularly undertake specific training to improve their knowledge and skills.

### Alongside the Head Teacher, Governors also carry out a number of other important duties which include:

- Setting aims and planning for the future of the school
- Determining how the school budget is spent
- Forming policy on school curriculum
- Making sure all pupils have equal opportunities within the school and providing for pupils with Special Educational Needs
- Ensuring the curriculum for the school promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of the pupils
- Handling appeals and grievances
- Setting standards for pupil behaviour
- Making sure the school buildings are welcoming and safe
- Setting and monitoring the school aims and policies
- Safer recruitment and retention

### The Governing Body – Roles and Activities

Governors are usually appointed for 4 years and the number varies according to the school's type and size. At KWS, we have a maximum of 10 people on the Governing Body. The Governing Body of KWS consists of Governors who are mostly residents in the local vicinity in which the school is situated. Our Governors come from a wide range of backgrounds with a diverse range of skills and expertise and are nominated to represent various stakeholder bodies including parents, staff and the local community. The Governors at the school are very active, undertaking most of their work through a structure of formal and informal committees. All the Governors at KWS are highly motivated and committed to the ethos, standards and success of the school, all having specific individual responsibilities. Governors recognise their legal, ethical and community responsibilities to the whole school, including the children, staff and parents.

### Standards of Governance

Governors are fully aware of the obligations and responsibilities that their roles bring, and are constantly looking to improve the quality, standards, efficiency and effectiveness with which they fulfil these responsibilities. The constantly changing nature, law and requirements of school governance are recognised to place an obligation on school governance to be adequately trained and kept up to date. Governors at KWS are committed to training, both in areas of a general nature and related to their specific areas of expertise and interest.

### Communication with Parents and the Community

The Governing Body is always seeking ways to maintain communication with the school community. There is constant interaction with parents through the Parent Governors and the Chair of Governors. Governors have adopted a proactive approach to their roles, and they are present and visible at school events where they are able to so.

### Curriculum Links

Governors at KWS are involved not only in issues of school governance, but are actively involved in the whole school curriculum. All Governors have at least one curriculum area for which they provide a link between the Governing Body and the Curriculum Lead Teacher with whom they will liaise on a regular basis thereby facilitating both the delivery of the curriculum across the school and providing a knowledge resource for the whole Governing Body. Governors undertake regular visits to the school. These are focussed on curriculum link **responsibilities** of individual Governors. The outcomes of these visits are reported to the termly meetings of the Governing Body and also written up as a report for all Governors to read.

## **Governing Body Committees**

Governors meet formally twice per term. The first meeting per term is a 'Working Party' Meeting where a number of aspects are discussed including:

- Policy development
- School self-review
- Strategic development
- Finance, budget and assets
- Pupil and personal
- Standards – including SEND, PP, CLA
- Premises and operations
- Health and safety
- Governor training
- Governor link visits
- Risk Management
- Attendance
- Other aspects of school life are also discussed dependant on the school's priorities

The second meeting in the term is a full Governing Body Meeting, which is clerked by the Local Authority.