

## School Governor

<b>Cost: Free</b>	You may be able to claim expenses in certain circumstances
<b>Time: Medium</b>	Must attend relevant meetings
<b>Requirements for Position: Low</b>	Must be over 18 years of age and be willing to have enhanced CRB checks
<b>Training Offered: Yes</b>	Relevant training is offered

### What is a School Governor?

Every school has a governing body which is responsible for ensuring that children receive quality education. Governors do this by setting the broad policies, plans, and procedures which the school will operate within.

The role of the governing body also means that they set out the school's aims and values, deal with budgetary allocation and control, and also appoint the Head Teacher.

School governors do not have individual powers and everyone has an equal status

therefore decisions can only be made as a whole body.

A vital aspect of a governor's role is that they act as a critical friend to their school. A critical friend is a trusted person who is working for the success of the school but who is also able to question and scrutinise the work of the school.

It is important to remember however that the head teacher is responsible for the day to day management and implementation of policy within the school. School governors and the head teacher must work together for the welfare of the school.

### The types of School Governors?

There are a number of different types of school governors these include:

- **Parent Governor**- usually a person who is a parent of a child currently registered at the school
- **Staff Governor**- are members of paid staff at the school
- **Community or Partnership Governors**- Can be persons who live and work in the community, represent community interests, or someone who does not live or work close to the school but are committed to the success of the school
- **Foundation Governor**- a foundation governor is appointed by the church and relevant diocesan body for the school. Church schools have foundation governors.

- **Local Authority Governor-** a governor who is appointed by the Local Authority

Each different type of school governor is appointed in different ways, the best way to find out about which school governor you could be is to contact Hartlepool Borough Council's Governor Support Team on (01429) 523766.

### How can I become a School Governor?

Almost anyone can become a school governor although you must be over the age of 18 years. There are no particular requirements or qualifications however you should be able to work in a team, have an interest in helping the community, and have the time to get involved.

All school governors will need to undergo enhanced CRB (Criminal Record Bureau) checks which are done to ensure the protection of children within schools and also confirm that they are not disqualified from serving as a governors for a number of reasons set out in legislation.

Governors are required to attend meetings of the full governing body and should also be willing to become active within other committees and working groups of the governing body.

To find out about vacancies for school governors you can contact your local school or the Governor Support Team on (01429) 523766.

For more information about becoming a School Governor you may find the following sites useful:

[National Governors Association](#)  
[School Governor's One Stop Shop](#)  
[GovernorLine](#)