Ickleford Primary School Becoming a School Governor

Thank you for your interest in becoming a governor.

Anyone can be a governor.

Governors place education, safeguarding and pupil growth at the centre. We all have a shared passion in wanting Ickleford Primary School to flourish, making it a wonderful place for pupils, teachers and parents.

Sounds interesting?

Well, below we have highlighted some more information around becoming governor. We have also demystified some unhelpful misconceptions.

What does a school governor do?

Governors provide support to the school leaders in helping them run the school. Having the support of a governing board allows teachers to do what they do best – teach! A governor's support, depending on particular skillset or interest, can vary. However typically, we plan for the future, monitor the budget and ensure that school is a great destination for the student's education.

We have meetings, review school documentation, and work together as a team.

Full training and support is given to help governors undertake the role.

Governors work as one body, and individuals are not held personally liable within their roles.

Being a school can be a wonderfully rewarding experience. Read the stories from school governors here.

How much volunteering time is needed?

The above sounds good? However, you're wondering how much time is that all going to take.

Not as much as you would think.

There are regular meetings every term (one or two) – full governing board meetings and committee meetings. They are usually about 90 minutes – 2 hours long. We try to be flexible in setting meeting times, bearing in mind other work, home and social commitments. There is often preparatory reading that needs to be undertaken before the meeting.

All governors are usually allocated a link role also. Every school is different in how they manage this. Link role governors monitor different aspects of the school in line with their strategic role. Most schools have the following link roles – these can sit with individual governors or within our committees:

- **Safeguarding** – all aspects of safety are of paramount importance, including child protection, safer recruitment practices, training of staff and teaching the children to stay safe. Making sure all our policies and practices are up to date, and – most importantly – that there is a strong safeguarding culture throughout the school.
- **Health & Safety** – such an important issue, whilst part of safeguarding, often a link role in its own right. This is about the fabric of the building, to ensure its safety and the people that enter it.
- **Pupil Premium –** making sure that the additional funds we receive for disadvantaged pupils are spent effectively.
- **Special Educational Needs and Development (SEND)** – some of our pupils have additional needs, and governors play an important role in ensuring they get the best possible education.
- **Each subject in the National Curriculum**

  The Chair will always try and find an area that works closely with your skillset. However, whatever link role you have, training is available.

  A link role monitoring visit will be needed termly – probably an hour to prepare, an hour to meet and an hour to write a report after this. Sometimes these visits can be on-line, but it is essential that you see the school 'in-action' sometimes. You will have a governor mentor to support you with your first few visits, and to help you write up the report.

  So – how much time? Probably anything between 12 – 15 days a year. Most of this will be evening meetings, but some of it will be in the day. You will get plenty of notice about what you are needed to do and when. In addition, you will be supported.

  You can watch this short video providing more information on becoming a governor here

- **Time Off Work**
  Not many people realize that being a school governor has the same status as being a magistrate – it is regarded as Public Office. Many employers recognise this and actively encourage their employees to become school governors. They often give employees extra leave to cover their governance duties – sometimes this is paid leave.

  Sounds interesting?
  Check out our 'Meet the Governors pdf' in the box above.