



Could you be a School Governor in Solihull?

**School Governance is the most important
voluntary role in education**

Why become a School Governor?

**Make a positive impact on the education of
thousands of children and young people and work
towards better schools and a better community.**

“I applied to become a School Governor because as a resident of the borough, a parent of children who have been educated at schools within the borough and an officer for the Local Authority I felt that the skills, knowledge and experiences that I have acquired would enable me to offer an enthusiastic, keen approach to supporting the school to enable children to have the education experiences which will allow them to achieve to the best of their ability.” - **Maria Vale, LA Governor, Smith’s Wood Community Primary School**

Who can be a School Governor?

- + Anyone aged 18 or over and living in the UK can be a governor. There is no upper age limit.
- + You don't need to have children or be a parent of a child at the school.
- + The average time commitment is 10-15 hours per term. This includes meetings, background reading and school visits.
- + Governing bodies rely on a variety of experiences and perspectives. No prior knowledge is required.

“A good governing body will ask the right questions to ensure the best learning and life opportunities for all our children. They bring an important local community aspect to the strategic direction, care and welfare of our young adults. Their wider experience helps ensure a real sense of reality and purpose to the school.” – **Vic Scutt, Headteacher, Light Hall School**

The role of a School Governor

Governors do not manage a school day-to-day, but are required to oversee its long-term development. Ultimately, all governor responsibilities come back to this task and can be split into three core roles:

Support & Challenge

- + **Ensure accountability.**
Asking the difficult questions and guaranteeing the school is responsible for its actions.
- + **Champion Success.**
Using your skills and experience to support the school in achieving its aims and recognising good performance.

Provide Strategic Management

- + **Monitor and evaluate progress.**
Analysing decisions: are they producing the desired results?
- + **Establish a strategic framework.**
Helping to set the school's aims and objectives.

Making Executive Decisions

- + **Allocate and control the school budget.**
From extra staff training to investing in new buildings or equipment.

- ✚ **Appoint senior staff.**
Including the responsibility of appointing a new Deputy Head or Head Teacher

Frequently Asked Questions

- ✚ **Do I get time off?**
School governors are like magistrates or members of a jury and therefore have the right to reasonable time off work for their public duties (this may be unpaid). Check with your HR department for your company's policy.
- ✚ **How long is the term of office?**
Four years. However should your circumstances change, as a volunteer, you can resign at any time.
- ✚ **Is there training available?**
Training and support is available from Solihull Governor Services for new and existing governors and is free of charge. We recommend all new governors attend the New Governor Training Seminars we run.
- ✚ **Where are the vacancies?**
There are vacancies across Solihull Borough. When applying online at School Governors One Stop Shop (SGOSS) please specify Solihull.
- ✚ **What is the legal position?**
Responsibility for actions and decisions lies with the governing body as a whole and not with individual members. The governing body is required by law to be covered by an insurance policy.

How do I apply to become a School Governor?

You can apply to become an LA Governor in Solihull online via School Governors One Stop Shop (www.sgoss.org.uk)

The Appointment Process

- Step 1: Complete online application form at SGOSS (www.sgoss.org.uk)
- Step 2: Online DBS check completed
- Step 3: Visit to Preferred School
- Step 4: Nomination approved at Decision Session
- Step 5: Appointment approved by Governing Body
- Step 6: Attend your first meeting.

And Finally...

If you have **any** queries regarding becoming a governor or the process of being appointed as a governor please contact:

Heidi Cosford

School Governance and IT Co-Ordinator

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“I am passionate about the provision of a quality education for all with a specific interest in SEN and Safeguarding. Being asked to be a governor with SEN/Safeguarding responsibility has given me the opportunity of understanding the complexities to providing an education for all. To be part of the decision making process to effect this aim is a privilege”

- Wendy Nuttall, Staff Governor, Coppice Junior School