

The Avon Valley School and Performing Arts College



PARENT GOVERNOR FACT SHEET

The governing board consists of parent governors, staff governor, the headteacher, co-opted governors, foundation governors, partnership governors and LA governor.

Our school has 2 parent governors.

Parent governors have all the same powers and duties as other governors. The governing board meets ***twice a term, usually in the evening***. If possible, every governor joins at least one of our committees. These are responsible for different aspects of the school such as ***Resources (including Finance, Premises, and Staffing) and Standards and Performance***. Committees meet ***twice a term*** at times which suit the committee members.

We also invite governors to come into school occasionally during the school day so they can understand how the school operates and see improvements for themselves.

To be eligible to stand for election as a parent governor you must have parental responsibility for a pupil at the school. Having "parental responsibility" is not limited to biological parents but will cover you if you are a stepparent, foster parent, grandparent bringing up the child, or permanent partner of the child's biological parent.

A few people cannot be school governors; those who have been made bankrupt or who have been in prison for certain offences may not serve for some years afterwards. School staff are not eligible to stand as parent governors if they are employed for 500 hours or more per year. If you have any doubts as to your eligibility on any of these grounds, please contact the school office/headteacher.

Parent governors hold their post for a term ***of 4 years***. A candidate for parent governor post must be a parent of a registered pupil at the time the election is held. However, parent governors do not have to resign if their children leave the school before their term of office has expired. A candidate is a representative member of the parent body rather than a delegate.

- Parent governors do not have to try to represent the views of all parents.
- They should communicate with them about issues that arise, but only as far as is reasonable: not confidential matters.
- When decisions have to be made by the governing board, each parent governor is free to vote in accordance with his/her own views.

The Governance handbook and competency framework emphasises the importance of the skills, experience and personal attitudes brought by each governor. This can be found online at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/925104/Governance_Handbook_FINAL.pdf

In addition, it is essential that all new governors attend the Induction Course provided by Governor Services for newly appointed governors so that you are fully aware of your role and contribute effectively to the work of the governing body team. You will also be invited to attend other regular training to build your governance skills over your term of office.