

## Useful Websites:

[www.gateshead.gov.uk](http://www.gateshead.gov.uk)

[www.governornet.co.uk](http://www.governornet.co.uk)

[www.dfes.gov.uk](http://www.dfes.gov.uk)

[www.governorline.info](http://www.governorline.info)

[www.nga.org.uk](http://www.nga.org.uk)

[www.teachnet.gov.uk](http://www.teachnet.gov.uk)

[www.sgoss.org.uk](http://www.sgoss.org.uk)



# Make a Difference *Become a School Governor*



*Discover your own potential  
whilst helping children  
achieve theirs.*

*Governors are ordinary people from many  
walks of life who have a vital role to play in helping to  
make sure every child has the best start in life.*

Gateshead Governors are committed to  
promoting the welfare of all pupils

## *What makes an effective school governor?*

- You care about improving children's educational attainment.
- You want to work as part of a team and can value the contribution made by different people.
- You are willing to listen, learn and to ask questions.
- You are open to ideas and have a feel for what is important to people.
- You are enthusiastic.
- You can commit time and energy.

## **Making an application for governorship and what to do next**

Vacancies for Staff and Parent governors are dealt with when they arise by the school and on occasion by the Local Authority.

The relevant Diocese oversee the arrangements for appointing Foundation governors.

For Community and Local Authority governorships, the Local Authority welcomes applications from all sections of the community.

When applying, if you have a specific school(s) in mind, please give the name of the school. Not all schools have vacancies at the same time so it is not always possible to place a person if only one choice is given.

**For further information, including advice on eligibility, disqualifications and Criminal Records Bureau clearance and to receive an application form, please contact:**

Governor Support Service  
The Dryden Centre  
Evistones Road  
Gateshead NE9 5UR

Telephone: 433 8624 or  
email: [JacquelineRidley@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:JacquelineRidley@gateshead.gov.uk)

## ***What we hope you will get out of being a governor:***

- the knowledge that you are helping schools and pupils.
- the satisfaction of giving something back to the community.
- a sense of purpose and achievement
- new skills which may be useful elsewhere
- broader horizons.
- new friends and work colleagues.
- free training and support in order to help you fulfil your duties and responsibilities.

## ***What do governors do?***

### **A Governing Body:**

- works closely with the head teacher and senior management team to set the direction for the school;
- determines the aims and overall conduct of the school with a view to promoting high standards of educational attainment;
- conducts most of its business through meetings, making use of relevant papers and guidance, training, and advice from the head teacher;
- has a range of duties including;
  - setting targets for pupils achievement
  - managing the schools finances and setting the school budget
  - ensuring a broad and balanced curriculum is delivered
  - developing school policies.
  - appointing staff and specifically the head teacher, undertaking performance management and reviewing pay.

## ***Who can be members of a governing body?***

- **Parent Governors** - parents or carers elected by other parents or carers with children at the school or on occasion appointed by the governing body;
- **Staff Governors** - the head teacher and staff members elected by teaching and support staff;
- **Community Governors** – individuals chosen by governors from the local community who represent community interests;
- **LEA Governors** – appointed by the Local Authority who take regard of the skills and experience which schools require and appoint candidates who support the schools’ ethos and mission;
- **Foundation Governors** – (not community schools) appointed by the schools founding body, church or other organisation to help preserve and develop the schools religious character;
- **Sponsor Governors** – a discretionary category appointed by the governing body from individuals who have made significant contributions to the school.

## **Induction**

As a school governor, you will be part of the largest volunteer group in the country. To help you understand your role and responsibilities you will receive an induction pack from the LA’s Governor Support Service upon appointment and you will have access to a wide range of training.

You will be encouraged to visit your school to begin the process of developing an effective relationship with the head teacher.

You will gain an initial understanding of the school’s ethos and aims.

Some schools select an experienced governor (mentor) to offer support and guidance.

No one governor is expected to know it all.

The strength of a Governing Body lies in its ability to rely upon members who will share out the duties and be able to take decisions as a team.