

Governors at Bishop Stopford School

Role of a Governor

The role of Governor is an enormously rewarding one, both from the range of issues encountered and from the satisfaction to be gained from contributing to a successful and happy School. Governors are recruited from a wide range of backgrounds and skills and the Academy is very fortunate to be able to call upon these skills as and when required.

The Governing Body is responsible for:

- Setting the strategic framework for the School – including aims, policies, priorities and targets
- Calling the Headteacher to report on the day-to-day management of the School
- Holding the school to account on aspects of its performance
- Ensuring compliance with legal requirements
- Financial Probity

The core of Governors' duties is exercised through the Board of Governors which meets formally four times a year. In addition there are Sub-Committee meetings, which work in greater detail on particular areas important to the Academy.

Every Governor is expected to join at least one of these committees which is usually relevant to his or her skills. These committees work with senior members of the School staff to develop detailed policies for ratification by the full Governing Board, and to scrutinise outcomes and practice.

Governors are encouraged to participate in other School activities such as music, drama and sport as time and interest allows in order to develop a wider perspective of Bishop Stopford School life. You are also welcome, through prior appointment with the Head, to observe the academic life of the School.

The culture of the Governing Body is one of purposeful informality. Governors are encouraged to air their views but, having done so, should be prepared to be bound by the collective decisions of the Board as a whole.

Inevitably, the responsibilities Governors hold through being a Company Director and Charity Trustee mean detailed policies and procedures must be in place to ensure all that we do takes place within a statutory framework. Procedures are detailed elsewhere in the handbook for guidance, and policies are held centrally on the Academy's Virtual Learning Environment accessed with a password through the school's website.

We very much hope you feel as enthused, as we do, by the satisfaction to be gained from playing a part in the development and education of the students in our care. Bishop Stopford School owes a huge debt of gratitude to the significant contribution made by its Governors.

Constitution of the Governing Body

Community Governors	4
Foundation Governors	10
Parent Governors	2
Staff Governors	3 including Headteacher
Clerk to Governors	1

All governors may be contacted via the Clerk to Governors, Mrs Julie Daly at the Academy, where possible marking for whose attention it is required. All correspondence will be forwarded to the appropriate member of the Governing Body.

Appointment of Governors

The Governing Board is responsible for making recommendations for prospective governors to the Academy Trust, which has responsibility for the appointment of Foundation and Community Governors, and ratification of the election of Staff and Parent Governors. The Diocese of Peterborough has a majority on the Trust Board.

Governors are selected from a wide range of backgrounds and our aim is to achieve a balanced Board with a core of individuals with legal, accountancy, finance, property management, business, marketing, educational, child protection, pastoral and life experience. We are aware of the importance of identifying the appropriate mixture of skills and experience that we and our successors need in order to manage the multi-faceted affairs of a modern school which is also a charitable company limited by guarantee, a medium sized business and an important local employer, with about 250 employees.

Appointment Process

The appointment process adopts the following format:

Parent and Staff Governor Appointment: A ballot is carried out following the correct procedure. Following completion of the process, details of the appointment are forwarded to the Academy Trust Board for ratification.

Foundation Governor Appointment: A nomination by the school is forwarded to the Diocesan Board of Education for approval. Subject to the approval of the DBE details of the appointment are forwarded to the Academy Trust Board for ratification.

Community Governor Appointment: A nomination by the school is presented to the Full Governing Body for approval and vote. Subject to the approval of the Full Governing Body details of the appointment are forwarded to the Academy Trust Board for ratification.