

Hall Cross Academy

School Governance

School governors have a wide range of responsibilities. They are in charge of planning the school's future direction and can thereby help raise the standards of pupil achievement. Governors are also accountable to parents and their wider community for the performance of the school.

Governing bodies have a specific statutory responsibility in respect of promoting pupils' well-being as well as wider responsibilities under equalities legislation. Governing bodies should ensure that schools strive to do the best for all of their pupils, irrespective of disability, educational needs, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, gender, religion or sexual orientation or whether they are looked after children. Governing bodies are also responsible for promoting community cohesion. Both these duties are discharged within the legal framework for equality.

Working closely with the Principal and senior leaders, the governing body sets the strategic direction of the school by:

- setting the values, aims and objectives for the school
- agreeing the policy framework for achieving those aims and objectives
- agreeing the school improvement strategy which includes approving the budget and agreeing the staffing structure

It challenges and supports the school by monitoring, reviewing and evaluating:

- the implementation and effectiveness of the school improvement strategy
- the budget and the staffing structure
- the implementation and effectiveness of the policy framework

Ensures accountability by:

- ensuring effective self-evaluation takes place
- responding to Ofsted reports and any other reports about the performance of the school when necessary
- holding the Principal to account for the performance of the school
- ensuring parents and pupils are involved, consulted and informed as appropriate
- making available information to the community
- appointing and performance managing the Principal (who is responsible for leading on all matters concerned with the day to day management of the school and on the successful achievement of its aims)

For governing bodies to carry out their role effectively, governors will be:

- prepared and equipped to exercise their responsibilities
- prepared to undertake training
- acknowledged as the accountable body by staff and lead professionals
- supported by the appropriate authorities
- willing and able to monitor and review their own performance.
- able to build effective relationships with one another, senior leaders and other key stakeholders within the school community.

Commitment

Governors should:

- Acknowledge that accepting office as a governor involves the commitment of time and energy, and the expectation that Governors will attend two meetings of the Full Governing Body per term and one committee meeting, usually held at 5pm.
- Be involved actively in the work of the governing body, and accept a fair share of responsibilities, including service on committees or working groups.
- Get to know the school well and respond to opportunities to be involved in school activities.
- Visit the school within the framework established by the governing body and agreed with the Principal.
- Consider seriously individual and collective needs for training and development, and undertake relevant training.
- Be committed to actively supporting and challenging the Principal and her colleagues.