

Okay – I am interested – what do I need to do?

There are different ‘categories’ of governors on governing boards. These are;

- **Co-opted Governor** - The majority of governors we place are co-opted governors. These volunteers don't have to have a connection to the school, religion, or the local authority. Co-opted governors, in the opinion of the governing board, have the skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school.
- **Foundation** - Foundation governors are members of faith school boards. Faith schools require some members of their governing boards to be of the school religion but requirements vary by faith and diocese.
- **Local Authority Governor** - Governors who are sometimes nominated by the local authority but appointed by the governing board.
- **Parent Governor** - Governing boards usually have between 2 parent governors, who represent the parent community.
- **Staff Governor** - Usually one or two members of school staff are elected by the staff to sit on the board as their representatives.
- **Associate Member** - A board may appoint associate members. When a school has no governor vacancies but is in need of someone with specific skills, such as grant applications, this may be a helpful option. Similarly, if a governor is retiring, a governing board may decide to recruit an associate to bridge the gap. Often, schools will consider associate members first when any vacancies arise on the full governing board. Associate members have no voting rights on the full governing board, but may vote on any committees to which they have been appointed.

Parent Governors are usually elected into the position whenever there is a vacancy. The school should notify all parents/carers that there is a vacancy and parents can consider whether they want to apply. Sometimes the notification will specify certain skills. Don't worry if you don't have these skills – it is still worth applying. The Chair of Governors or another senior governor will want to interview you, before you put yourself forward for election. This is a two-way process to discuss your availability and check your understanding of the role.

If you are not elected, it may be possible that you could be considered under another category of governor, but this will vary from school to school.

If you not elected – please consider applying to another school? This will give you excellent experience when the next vacancy occurs. Further information is available via the [Herts for Learning website](#).

This school may or may not have current vacancies.

So – if I get elected - what happens next?

You will need to complete an application form and visit the school. It is good practice for schools to take up references before confirming the appointment, so do be prepared to provide these if requested. You will need to complete a declaration of interests for to declare any conflicts of interest you will have including conflicts of loyalty and financial interests – this information must be published by the school on its website. You must undergo an [enhanced DBS check](#), and your appointment will be subject to this – this will be carried out by the school. Once all this is in place, the full governing board can then ratify your appointment.

- **What Have Governors & the School Achieved Last Year?**

The reward of being a governor is often ‘delayed gratification’. That is – our reward is not immediate (in meetings, for example), but later – such as a ‘Good’ in Ofsted, or a rewards assembly with the children.

Last year we have;

- Federated two schools.
- Recruited an Executive Headteacher.
- Recruited experience governors to the board and trained new ones.
- Drawn up plans to become 'Good' at the next Ofsted.
- Supported the school through the Covid pandemic, assuring Ofsted of appropriate on-line delivery of lessons and good pupil engagement.
- Monitored the development of the new curriculum.
- Submitted a balanced budget to Hertfordshire County Council.
- Had several meetings – monitoring finances, health and safety, planning, pupil progress and achievement, pupil and staff welfare and a number of other issues.
- Met with Thundridge School to discuss collaboration and federation to secure our future.
- Drawn up plans to market the school for the future to bring in more pupils.

YOU can be part of this! Please contact the Chair of Governors, Kathy Dunnett via the School Administrator. Hope to hear from you soon!

Find out more about becoming a school governor [here](#)