

Being an NSAT Parent Governor

“As a parent governor, I feel able to express my views and support the school in achieving their vision and goals. It is important to have a different perspective and feel able to challenge the school in pushing themselves to be the best they can be”.

- NSAT Parent Governor

What do governors do?

Thank you for your interest in being a parent governor. Governors support the **strategic** leadership in our schools, holding senior leaders to account, ensuring educational provision is high quality and making sure school money is well spent. As a result, being a governor can be demanding, but also very rewarding. Governors are **not** responsible for the day-to-day management and operations of the school.

Whilst parent governors provide their perspective as parents during governing body meetings, they don't speak for all parents and are not expected to canvas for parent opinions between meetings. The discussions that take place during governing body meetings are confidential and should be treated as such.

What would I be expected to do?

Parent governors serve a **4-year** term of office. The minimum expectation is that you will attend an average of **six governing body meetings per year**. There may be additional meetings where required. Meetings are usually held outside school hours, lasting approximately 2 hours each. For the time being, all meetings are being held virtually, using video conferencing software. We can help you access meetings electronically, if required.

In addition to attending meetings, you will need to:

- Read reports and papers that you are sent, and be prepared to ask questions about them
- Keep up to date with the progress that the school is making, and
- If you are able to commit the time – take on a ‘link’ role where you will work with staff members to learn about specific aspects of school life.

You will be asked to sign a Code of Conduct emphasising the importance of maintaining confidentiality, and have:

- A strong commitment to the role and improving outcomes for children
- The inquisitiveness to question and analyse
- A passion for learning and self-development

Publication of Governor Details

The academy trust that the school is part of (NSAT) is required to publish information about its governors on its website/that of each school. The published information includes, as a minimum:

- Name of governor
- Category of governor (e.g. parent)
- Appointing body (e.g. elected by parents)
- Term of office
- Positions of responsibility such as chair or vice-chair of the Local Governing Body

NSAT must also provide information about its governors to the Secretary of State through the Get information About Schools (GIAS) system. On appointment, the details above would be published on GIAS. For further information on how NSAT processes pupil and parent data, see the [Privacy Notice for Pupils and Parents](#).

Register of Interests

NSAT is under a duty to publish on its website a register of interests. The register sets out the relevant business interests of governors. The register also sets out any relationships between governors and members of school staff including spouses, partners and relatives. You will be asked to declare any relevant interests on appointment, and these would be included on the published register.

Are there any restrictions which could disqualify parents from becoming parent governors?

Yes, but they are unlikely to apply to most parents – see the ‘disqualification statement’ below.



Disqualification Statement

- Registered pupils cannot be governors.
- A governor must be aged 18 or over at the time of election or appointment.
- A person cannot hold more than one governor post at the same school at the same time.
- A person serving on the Local Governing Body shall cease to hold office if s/he is absent without the permission of the chair of the Local Governing Body from all the meetings of the Local Governing Body held within a period of six months and the Local Governing Body resolves that his/her office be vacated.
- A person serving on the Local Governing Body shall cease to hold office if he becomes incapable by reason of illness or injury of managing or administering his/her own affairs.
- A person shall be disqualified from serving on the Local Governing Body if:
 - his/her estate has been sequestrated and the sequestration has not been discharged, annulled or reduced;
 - s/he is the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order or an interim order.
- A person shall be disqualified from serving on the Local Governing Body at any time when s/he is subject to a disqualification order or a disqualification undertaking under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 or to an order made under section 429(2)(b) of the Insolvency Act 1986 (failure to pay under county court administration order).
- A person serving on the Local Governing Body shall cease to hold office if s/he would cease to be a director by virtue of any provision in the Companies Act 2006 or is disqualified from acting as a trustee by virtue of section 72 of the Charities Act 1993 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that provision).
- A person shall be disqualified from serving on the Local Governing Body if s/he has been removed from the office of charity trustee or trustee for a charity by an order

made by the Charity Commission or the High Court on the grounds of any misconduct or mismanagement in the administration of the charity for which s/he was responsible or to which s/he was privy, or which s/he by his conduct contributed to or facilitated.

- A person shall be disqualified from serving on the Local Governing Body at any time when s/he is:
 - Included in the list kept by the Secretary of State under section 1 of the Protection of Children Act 1999; or
 - Disqualified from working with children in accordance with Section 35 of the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000; or
 - Barred from regulated activity relating to children (within the meaning of section 3(2) of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups act 2006); or
 - Included in the list of people prohibited from managing an independent school

- A person shall be disqualified from serving on the Local Governing Body if s/he is a person in respect of whom a direction has been made under section 142 of the Education Act 2002 or is subject to any prohibition or restriction which takes effect as if contained in such a direction.

- A person shall be disqualified from serving on the Local Governing Body where s/he has, at any time, been convicted of any criminal offence, excluding any that have been spent under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 as amended, and excluding any offence for which the maximum sentence is a fine or a lesser sentence except where a person has been convicted of any offence which falls under section 72 of the Charities Act 1993.

- Anyone proposed or serving as a governor who is disqualified for one of these reasons must notify the clerk to the Local Governing Body.

If you have any questions about being a parent governor please email:
governance@nsat.org.uk

