

Hove Learning Federation

The Role of the School Governor

The purpose of governance is to provide confident and strong strategic leadership which leads to robust accountability, oversight and assurance for educational and financial performance.

Boards of Governors have three core responsibilities:

- **Hold school leaders to account for the educational and financial performance of the school**
Governors create robust accountability for school leaders through rigorous analysis of performance data and financial information.
- **Set the school's vision and values, and the strategy for achieving this vision**
The school's vision centres on pupil progress and achievement. Working with senior leaders, the board sets strategic objectives to help the school reach its goals.
- **Ensure the school's financial success and probity**
The governing board must ensure that the budget delegated to the school by the local authority is managed effectively, and with regard to value for money.

In order to achieve these responsibilities, the Governing Body (GB) works with the school on planning and developing policies and keeping the school under review. Its powers and responsibilities must be exercised in partnership with the Headteacher and staff.

Responsibilities

- Develop the school's vision and strategy
- Set a culture of high educational standards, which promotes staff and pupil wellbeing
- Ensure the school follows the National Curriculum, and that all pupils, including those with special educational needs (SEN), can access the curriculum
- Monitor provision for pupils with SEN
- Monitor the school's educational performance, using a range of data sources
- Ensure stakeholders (parents, pupils, staff, the local community) are informed and consulted as appropriate
- Approve the school budget
- Monitor and evaluate the school's financial performance
- Approve and review school policies, and hold staff to account for their implementation
- Ensure the school is compliant with legal requirements, including that all statutory policies and documents are in place
- Carry out the appointment and performance management of the Headteacher
- Monitor and evaluate the school's staffing structure(s)
- Monitor health and safety in the school
- Work in co-operation with the local authority, having regard to any guidance it issues

Skills and experience

Essential:

- Critical listening and ability to ask effective questions
- Strategic thinking
- Excellent communication
- Problem-solving and analysis

Desirable:

- Understanding of data
- Finance and/or accounting knowledge
- HR experience

- Knowledge of education
- Leadership and management skills
- Risk management skills
- Legal expertise
- Marketing and communications skills

Further information about the role of a governor:

- National Governance Association: [‘Be a school governor’](#)
- Governors for Schools: [‘About the Role’](#)