

## Frequently asked questions

### ***Who is the Board of Governors accountable to?***

The Board of Governors is accountable by law to Ofsted, the local community and the local authority.

### ***Do governors get paid?***

No. All governors are volunteers.

### ***How do I become a governor?***

Contact the chair of your Board of Governors. When there's a vacancy for a parent governor all parents will be informed and you'll have the chance to stand for election.

### ***Can I approach the governors with concerns?***

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school. Concerns and complaints should go to the school before coming to the Board of Governors.

## Where to go for more information

### **External information**

For more information on the role of the Board of Governors, see the government's Governance Handbook.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/governance-handbook>

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# The work of the Board of Governors in Maintained Schools

Chair of governors: Linda Caroe

Vice-chair of governors: David Ibbotson

Clerk to the Board of Governors: Gaynor Newham

You can contact the governors by email or via the school office 01323 732055

[linda.caroe@meads.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:linda.caroe@meads.e-sussex.sch.uk)

## What is the role of the Board of Governors?

The Board of Governors is responsible in law for the school, but it has a strategic role and doesn't get involved in operational matters like teaching or timetabling – these are the responsibility of the headteacher. The Board of Governors holds the headteacher to account for his/her decisions.

All governing bodies have three main functions:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
2. Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent

The Board of Governors holds the headteacher to account by monitoring and asking the right questions. This often includes visiting the school to look at specific areas, like safeguarding or behaviour.

### Jargon buster

**Pupil premium funding:** The pupil premium is additional funding for publicly funded schools in England to help raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils.

**Looked-after children:** children who are provided with accommodation by the LA for a continuous period of more than 24 hours, or who are subject to a care or placement order

**SEN:** special educational needs

## What specific duties do governors have?

The Board of Governors' duties include:

- Setting the vision and ethos of the school
- Appointing and appraising the headteacher
- Making sure the headteacher carries out his/her duties to appraise other teachers
- Making sure safer recruitment procedures are applied
- Ensuring the school has a written policy on sex and relationship education (SRE) that parents can see
- Approving and monitoring the school budget
- Ensuring that pupil premium funding is being spent on improving attainment for eligible pupils
- Appointing a designated teacher to promote the achievement of any looked-after children in the school
- Making sure the school complies with the Equality Act 2010, and publishing information on how it is doing this
- Ensuring the school has a policy on supporting pupils with medical conditions
- Appointing a member of staff to be the designated safeguarding lead and ensuring the school has effective policies and procedures in place to keep children safe
- Ensuring that special education provision is made for any pupil who has SEN, and that the school follows the statutory Code of Practice

## What does this look like in our school?

Our Board of Governors is made up of two parent governors, one staff governor, one local authority governor, 6 Foundation Governors appointed by the Diocese. Also the vicar of St John's Church and the Headteacher who are both ex officio.

Our Board of Governors meets 6 times a year. We visit the school on a regular basis in order to monitor the progress towards the priorities set out within the School Development plan and any other statutory monitoring eg Safeguarding.

All governors will be expected to attend the Board meetings and become a member of one or more committees or monitoring group.

The two main committees meeting 3 times a year

- Finance and Resources
- Ethos

The other committees meet as required

- Admissions
- Pay

The monitoring group meets 3 or 4 times per year.

- Data and Curriculum

We also have panels for the appraisal of the headteacher, pupil exclusions, staff grievances, staff discipline, and complaints. These meet when needed.

Induction training is mandatory for new governors and on-going training is available for all governors. The term of office for the Parent and Staff governors is two years.