

Make a difference – become a Parent Governor

LONSDALE



Why become a Parent Governor?

Governors have an important part to play in helping schools to run effectively. They work as part of a team with the Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team (SLT) to help provide a happy, safe and thriving learning environment and an excellent education for all the children.

As a Parent Governor, you will be well placed to understand parents' views and have first-hand knowledge of how the school is run. You will have the opportunity to work toward improving the school experience not only for your own child but for children in years to come.

This voluntary role can be challenging yet extremely rewarding and is a great way to build on your personal and professional skills. You will be supported in the role through a programme of training and mentoring allowing you to use your knowledge and experience to the full extent.

What will you do?

You will work with the school and governors to develop the school's vision, ethos and priorities. We review educational performance and make strategic decisions.

Parent Governors are representative parents rather than representatives of parents. You will not be expected to gather the views of other parents and take them to Governor's meetings or to personally become involved in individual concerns. You will need to be able to present a balanced and impartial view, based on the benefits for all children.

Governor full board meetings are held in person, and the committee boards are on teams. You will receive a combination of reports from the Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and will need to be able to read them, question, challenge and support decisions. You will also be expected to visit the school as a governor which can be a quite different experience to visiting as a parent!

The Governing Body operates a code of conduct which sets an ethos of professionalism and high expectations of governors.

What are we looking for?

We need enthusiastic and committed parents from a variety of backgrounds. You do not need leadership or education experience; just a desire to give back to the school and its community and a proactive approach to becoming involved as a member of a team.

Simon Thompson became a parent governor in 2023:

"I have now been a Parent Governor for two years, having first applied after seeing an advert similar to this one. It appealed to me because I wanted to feel more connected to the school where my son would be spending the next ten years, and I also wanted to give something back. I'm so glad I made the decision to join!"

"I had no previous experience as a governor, nor any background in schools or education. But that didn't matter. Other governors are always on hand to answer questions and support you in the early days. And the role isn't a big drain on your time either. But for me, the most beneficial part is being able to see the school in action. It really is amazing, and I am so proud to be part of it, helping shape the future for all the wonderful children who attend Lonsdale."

Next steps

If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Chandra Green, Chair of Governors, at CGreen1@lonsdale.herts.sch.uk for an informal chat.