

# Help Schools Help Children

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**How to become  
a School Governor**

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department for  
**education and skills**

**“Governors are unsung heroes”**

Headteacher, secondary school

**“Governors aren’t meeting freaks,  
but people who care about  
children”**

Headteacher, primary school

**“Governors are the bridge between  
the school and the community”**

Primary school governor

**“They work with our teachers”**

Jan aged 7

**“Governors have a real job to  
do and it is interesting, challenging  
and rewarding”**

Governor from the  
business community

**“It’s a tough job, but I’ve received  
lots of support, and it’s worth it”**

Primary governor



## How do governors help schools and children?

School governors are people who wish to make a positive contribution to children's education. Anyone with an interest in education can be a governor. Governors are volunteers who spend about 6 hours each month attending meetings and working to further the school's development.

The governing body consists of people from the school's community. Every school's governing body has parents; school staff; and representatives of the Local Education Authority. Most schools also have community governors and certain schools have foundation governors.

New school governors receive a nationally designed induction programme covering roles and responsibilities. LEAs and others run training events to meet governors' needs. Governors can get independent advice from GovernorLine – the national free telephone helpline service.

**“ They decide things ”**

Shain aged 6

**“ They get us computers ”**

Jo aged 9

**“ Governors can, and do,  
make a difference to  
children’s futures ”**

Primary Headteacher

**“ They make sure we behave ”**

Robert aged 10

**“ They give headteachers the  
place, space and opportunity  
to think ”**

Secondary Headteacher

**“ They help the head care  
for the school ”**

Jim aged 8



## **What do governors do?**

Together with the headteacher they set the future direction for the school and decide how the school's budget should be spent. Governing bodies make decisions collectively on matters such as performance targets, school policies and the school's development plan.

Governors monitor the impact of policies and oversee the use of the school's budget. They report to parents on the school's achievements and respond to inspection recommendations. They hear appeals from pupils and staff and consider complaints.

Governors provide the headteacher with support and advice, drawing on their knowledge and experience. They ask searching questions and respect the headteacher's position as professional leader of the school.

## **I'm interested, what do I do now?**

You can contact your local school to ask if they need governors. Your local education authority will be able to help you find a school or advise on opportunities to become a LEA governor. The person who gave you this leaflet may have inserted their contact details below.

If you are a parent – ask your school about elections for parent governors.

Schools, LEAs and the local Diocesan authority will be able to tell you about opportunities as community governors; LEA governors and foundation governors respectively.



## **I'd like some more information**

If you have business or management skills you can contact the School Governors' One-Stop Shop for information. The One-Stop Shop recruits governors for inner city schools and areas with many governor vacancies. You can contact them at the address below.

School Governors' One-Stop Shop (SGOSS)

64 Essex Road

London N1 8LR

Tel. 0870 241 3883 or 020 7288 1720

Website address:

[info@schoolgovernors-oss.co.uk](mailto:info@schoolgovernors-oss.co.uk)

You can visit the Department for Education and Skills' website for school governors:

[www.dfes.gov.uk/governor/index.htm](http://www.dfes.gov.uk/governor/index.htm)

Further copies of this booklet may be obtained from:

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