

If more nominations are received than places available, an election will have to take place.

You will probably be asked to provide a short written statement about yourself to go out to parents with the voting papers - please don't let this put you off!

Your statement does not have to show that you know all about being a governor. It just needs to be a few sentences - for example, why you would like to get involved as a governor, what is important to you as a parent and what you hope to be able to contribute.

Schools particularly need more parent governors from our black and minority ethnic communities to enable governing bodies to become more representative.

## How you can find out more -

If you would like to find out more about becoming a parent governor at your child's school, please speak to the Chair of Governors or the Headteacher.

If you would like to find out more about being a governor before putting your name forward, please

contact **Mary Aitken, Governance Support Officer**

☎ 01926 412265

or go to our website

[www.warwickshire.gov.uk/becomingagovernor](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/becomingagovernor)

If you would like to receive a copy of this leaflet in larger print please contact Ben Hughes on 01926 412559.

# Schools Need Parent Governors Like YOU !

School governors have a vital role to play in making sure all pupils at a school receive the highest standard of education possible and are able to achieve their full potential.

The quality of education we provide for today's children will affect the quality of society in the future.

School governors come from all backgrounds reflecting different cultures, communities, work skills and life experiences.

## As a Parent Governor...

- \* you will bring a parental view to the work of the governing body.
- \* you will be actively involved in decisions affecting your child's school.
- \* you will be actively helping it to be a successful school.
- \* you will be rewarded with the knowledge that you are making a difference by doing something positive for the next generation and for your local community.

## What School Governors actually do -

Each school has its own governing body which has specific duties given to it by law including:

- ✓ Agreeing school developmental priorities
- ✓ Monitoring and evaluating the performance of the school
- ✓ Setting school targets
- ✓ Making sure the curriculum is balanced
- ✓ Agreeing school policies
- ✓ Agreeing an annual budget detailing planned spending and staffing
- ✓ Appointment of Headteacher and other senior staff

An effective governing body is a source of enormous strength to a school. Governors provide the Headteacher with support and advice. They ask searching questions whilst respecting the Headteacher's position as professional leader of the school. They share in formulating the school's aims and vision.

Being a school governor means being committed to giving time and energy to the role. Each governor contributes to the work of the governing body and shares the load. Governors are asked to take part in regular meetings, read papers and find out about the issues being discussed.

In practice, this means going to one or two full governing body meetings each term, together with one or two committee meetings. Most governing bodies hold their meetings on a weekday evening at the school. Governors' understanding and Appreciation of the working of the school can also benefit

from the occasional visit, perhaps once a term, during the school day. Governors receive training and support to help them in their role.

All governors have a duty to act in the interests of all children in the school and maintain discretion and confidentiality.

You do not need previous experience of education to be an effective governor. Everyone has skills and knowledge from everyday life and work which would be of enormous benefit to a governing body. Common sense and the ability to listen and make reasoned decisions together with a commitment to give a few hours of your time are vital ingredients.

## How to become a Parent Governor -

### Finding out about parent governor vacancies

Schools tell parents and carers about parent governor vacancies in letters or newsletters sent home with pupils. A closing date for nominations will be given.

To get an idea of when any parent governor places are likely to become available, you can check with the school when the current parent governors are due to finish their terms of office.

### Putting your name forward to be a Parent Governor

Firstly, the school will ask you to complete a nomination form and return it to the school by a certain date. The form will also need to be signed by two other parents who are not related to you.

