

Inspiring volunteers Become a school governor



Inspiring Governance is a FREE service connecting volunteers with schools looking for governors and trustees.

Volunteering to be a school governor or trustee is an excellent opportunity for personal development and a great way to support children and young people in your local community. Join over 300,000 volunteers already governing across the country.

Personal development

The skills you gain by volunteering to be a school governor or trustee have direct relevance to employers. Volunteers are able to develop many professional and personal skills. These include:

- strategic leadership
- project management
- budget control
- data analysis
- recruitment
- building relationships and networks
- effective teamworking
- communication
- problem solving
- influencing/negotiation

Who can become a school governor?

School governing boards need people from different backgrounds with a wide range of professional and personal skills to drive school improvement. There are no particular qualifications required and anyone over 18 years of age can become a governor or trustee provided they have a willingness to learn, have time to give to the role and a capacity to work with people.

Responsibilities of school governors

The governing board plays a critical role in a school's success and the success of its students. School governors and trustees are responsible for providing clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction. They recruit headteachers and hold them to account for the performance of the school and its pupils. And they make sure public money is well spent.

Commitment

As a school governor or trustee, you will be expected to attend meetings, participate in committees that support the governing board and do the necessary preparatory



Being a school governor or trustee is an incredibly important role that makes a difference to the lives of children, young people, and the local community.



Emma Knights, Chief Executive,
National Governance Association

reading. Meetings are typically held in the late afternoon or early evening, although occasionally you may be invited into school for visits or events during the day.

The time commitment is normally about 5-8 hours a month, depending on the type of school and any additional responsibilities you want to take on. All appointments are subject to an enhanced criminal record check, which will be carried out by the school or trust before you take up your role.

Interested in finding out more?

Get in touch:

t 0207 566 4880/2

e enquiries@inspiringgovernance.org

Applying to become a school governor

5 STEPS

If you think you have what it takes to be a school governor or trustee, go to www.inspiringgovernance.org and follow the steps. On the website you can also learn more about the role, the activities, the time commitment and the many benefits.

We make it easy for local schools to find volunteers based on what skills they're looking for. Once you find the right school we'll support and guide you.

1

We'll get to
know you

It all starts with a simple online form at www.inspiringgovernance.org. School governing boards need people from different backgrounds with a range of skills. You'll tell us about your skills and experience and what type of school you'd like to join.

2

We'll match
you

You'll join a pool of volunteers in your local area. Governing boards seeking volunteers can search this pool, send you a message and set up a call to discuss your mutual expectations. If you agree to go ahead you'll be invited to an interview.

3

You'll be
interviewed

School governing boards work like boards in the third sector. Once you're matched to a suitable vacancy you will be invited for interview with the chair of the governing board. You can arrange everything, including the time and place, through the Inspiring Governance platform.

The interview will check that

- you're clear about the role and responsibilities
- your skills and experience match with what the board is looking for
- you feel the school and board are a good fit for you

4

After the
interview

If you're suitable for the role you'll be offered a place on the governing board. If you choose to accept the role your term as a school governor or trustee will begin.

Of course, not every opportunity is the right one, so you'll continue to be contacted by schools until you tell us you've found a match.

5

We'll support
you

If you're recruited, great! New governors and trustees will be able to access a range of support from the National Governance Association (NGA). This includes

- a dedicated telephone and email support line to walk you through your first year
- a complimentary copy of NGA's Welcome to Governance induction guide
- access to NGA's online guidance centre containing a wealth of governance resources
- access to free e-learning induction modules with NGA Learning Link
- membership of the Young Governors' Network for young volunteers under the age of 40

Still have questions? We're here to help you find the right board and become a great school governor or trustee. Get in touch; we'd love to hear from you.