



These are unusual times but school governing boards continue to meet using online technology and many will still be recruiting as they seek to ensure they are ready for when education, and life in general, returns to normal.

Do continue to look out for messages from governor recruiters and respond. Continue to check your junk/spam folder in case messages have ended up there.

If you are not available until the current situation changes then let our Enquiries Team know and they can make your account temporarily inactive. Don't forget to let them know when you want it reactivated too. The email is enquiries@inspiringgovernance.org

If you are available and approached by a recruiter (usually the chair or clerk) respond to their email by selecting the happy to have a chat or more information required options within the invitation.

From this point you will share telephone numbers to have an initial conversation about the school, the governing board and what you can offer. If you each agree to take the process forward the next step will be an interview which will be carried out using technology such as Microsoft Teams, Zoom or Skype. This interview will probably include some of the following board members: the chair, the head, the clerk, another governor who may have experience in interviewing or in using technology in meetings.

Remember, this is a new situation for everyone and some governing boards may not be familiar with the use of video conferencing technology so be prepared for the interview not to run smoothly.



Our guide on preparing for your interview still applies so do have a look at this. However, in addition bear the following in mind.

- **Do your research.** You won't have the opportunity to visit the school so it is important to have a look at their website to get a sense of what the school is like. A few school websites have virtual tours and all will have details of their vision and ethos, their last Ofsted inspection report, school performance tables and their results. Information about Pupil Premium, the fund to support specific groups of children who are vulnerable to possible underachievement, will also be on the website and this will give you an idea about the needs of pupils attending the school.
- **Check the technology.** The interview will need to be carried out using the video option of whatever technology is being used. It is part of the process to check the volunteer's ID and carry out an Enhanced DBS check so it is important that you can be seen. Make sure you have checked the facility works on the computer or phone you are using beforehand and that you are in a quiet space where you won't be interrupted.

Have questions ready and don't be afraid to ask them. Things you might want to find out, specific to the Covid-19 situation include:

- New members have to be voted on by the whole board so find out how this will happen in the current situation.
- How you will be introduced in the first virtual meeting you join and what will be expected of you.
- How they plan to move forward with new appointments once the current restrictions are lifted.
- An effective governing board will have an induction process for new governors and will allocate a mentor. Ask how this will work until restrictions are lifted.

Do prepare for your interview in the same way as you would a face-to-face interview so check out our Guide to Preparing for Your Governor Interview.

Good luck.

