



**Downsway
Primary
School**

Vacancy for a Co-opted Governor

Downsway Primary School has a vacancy for a Co-opted Governor to join our team of dedicated volunteers. The Governing Board is responsible for providing the best possible education for our children and is seeking a committed parent who has a genuine interest in education to be a part of our team. You will be joining a diverse group of people, bringing a valuable range of experience, skills and knowledge to the school.

The role of the governors is a strategic one; working closely with the Headteacher and other senior leaders in leading the school, setting the vision and establishing the right culture in which to drive forward improvement. The core responsibilities of a governor are as follows:

- Defining and implementing a strategy for the long-term future of the school
- Setting the school's aims and values
- Ensuring accountability at all levels
- Providing support and challenge to school leaders by acting as a "critical friend"
- Monitoring and evaluating the school's overall effectiveness
- Setting the school's budget and monitoring spending to ensure financial resources are well used and value for money is secured.

School governors are the largest group of volunteers nationally, and in addition to giving something worthwhile back to the local community it is also a good way to utilise your own transferable skills and experience in another environment. Being a governor requires a serious degree of commitment in terms of time to attend meetings and a willingness to learn. Governors are expected to attend all meetings which are held every half term on Wednesdays from 4pm, and usually last around two hours.

We also expect new governors to undertake initial induction training to understand their roles and responsibilities, and thereafter commit to on-going training during their period of office. New governors are assigned a mentor to help them to develop and understand the role, and will receive an annual appraisal from the Chair and Vice Chair of Governors to ensure their contributions are effective and individual skills are being well developed.

Details of the roles and responsibilities of governors are set out in this Department of Education's Governance Handbook (Oct 2020). The DfE has recently issued a Competency Framework for Governance (Oct 20) which defines the knowledge skills and behaviours needed for effective governance.

If you are interested in finding out more about becoming a Co-opted Governor please contact Mrs Lorraine Doyle, Chair of Governors and Mrs Petra Robinson, Clerk to Governors by emailing clerk@downsway.w-berks.sch.uk.