

1) What is a school governor?

School governors are the largest volunteer force in the UK. Governors provide strategic leadership and accountability in schools. They also hold the main responsibility for finance in schools and work with the headteacher to make the tough decisions about balancing resources.

Each individual governor is a member of a governing board, which is established in law as a corporate body. Individual governors may not act independently of the rest of the governing body; decisions are the joint responsibility of the governing body.

Queens' is an academy trust. Academy trusts have an additional layer of governance compared to maintained schools, known as the members. The members will be responsible only for fundamental decisions such as changing the constitution of the academy trust and it is the governing body which remains the body responsible for making strategic decisions about the day to day running of the academy. An academy is also a charitable company limited by guarantee. The governors have duties as directors under company law and trustees under charity law. These duties are similar to those of governors of the school.

2) What is the specific role of a school governor?

The role of the governing body is a strategic one, its key functions are to:

- set the aims and objectives for the school
- set the policies for achieving those aims and objectives
- set the targets for achieving those aims and objectives
- monitor and evaluate the progress the school is making towards achievement of its aims and objectives
- hold senior leaders to account for the performance of the school, its pupils and staff.
- be a source of challenge and support (a critical friend).

Governors at Queens' are also called upon to:

- Assist with staff recruitment
- Head Teacher performance management
- Consider annual pay reviews and hear pay appeals
- Hear exclusions appeals
- Take a part in the school's complaints process
- Meet regularly with their appointed staff curriculum links and report back to the governing body.

3) How often does the governing body meet?

Here at Queens' the full governing body meet twice per term. In addition governors are required to be part of one of the governing body's sub-committees – these sub committees (shorter meetings) also meet twice per term. All meetings are held in the evening.

4) How do I become a school governor?

You don't have to be a parent of a child at Queens' to be a governor. In addition to parent governors (who are elected by the parents) Queens' also has 'Community Governors' (members

of the local community appointed by the governing body) and 'Staff Governors' (staff members elected by the staff body). The governor term of office is 4 years and all governors must undertake an enhanced DBS (criminal record check) prior to commencement of appointment.

Training for the role is required and is provided. Governors regularly take part in training sessions to ensure they are able to offer a broad skills base and training for certain tasks that governors undertake is mandatory.

For more information on the role of school governor, please go to: <http://www.nga.org.uk/Be-a-Governor.aspx>

For more information about Academy Governors, please go to: <http://www.newschoolsnetwork.org/academy-resource-hub/resources/roles-and-responsibilities-of-academy-governors>