

## **School Governors**

Governors are one of the largest volunteer forces in the country and have an important part to play in raising school standards. The role of the governing board is absolutely key to the effectiveness of a school.

School governors provide strategic leadership and accountability in schools. Governors appoint the head teacher and deputy head teacher. It is governors who hold the main responsibility for finance in schools, and who work with the head teacher 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 board; decisions are the joint responsibility of the governing board.

The role of the governing board 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
- be a source of challenge and support to the head teacher (a critical friend)

The head teacher is responsible for the internal organisation, management and control of the school and the implementation of the strategic framework established by the governing board.

Source; - NGA

## **Fairford Church of England Primary School Governing Body**

All governors sit on the **Full Governing Body** and one or two committees. The Governing Body has three Committees; Quality & Standards, Resources and Strategy. All committees are responsible for writing and reviewing policies assigned to the GB and contributing to, agreeing and monitoring the School Development Plan. Governors also contribute to the School's Self Evaluation. The school has a Christian Values Committee which is made of Governors, Staff and Church Representatives.

The Governing Body is fully committed to maintaining the highest standards of **Safeguarding**. It is reported at all meetings and the policy and audit monitored and tracked by the Quality and Standards Committee. And approved by the FGB.

Governor Training is accessible to all governors on-line and at annual on-site training organised for the entire GB. There is an Induction and Mentoring system for all new governors.

The Governing Body recognises and celebrates Pupil Voice and representative from the pupils are invited to make presentations and ask questions at Governors' meetings throughout the year.

At all committee meetings the Head Teacher gives a report on the School Development Plan and progress made in achieving targets outlined in it.

The **Full Governing Body** meets 5 times a year. At each meeting there is a detailed report from the Head Teacher on Standards of Achievement and all aspects school life. Any Health & Safety issues are discussed and all Committee Chairs report. There is an update on Governor training and Governor visits. Annually the Governing Body Code of Conduct and Confidentiality Policy is reviewed and signed by individual Governors. The GB also undertakes a Self Assessment task and from the results plans future changes and training. Items from the Committees are brought to the GB for final approval including policies, finance, accounts & budgets, some appointments and Safeguarding audit and policy.

The school also has a **Christian Values Committee**. It has members from the GB, Staff and Churches in Fairford. It meets 5 times a year. The main function of the committee is to support, advise and challenge the Head Teacher and Governing Body on matters relating to the distinctiveness and effectiveness of the school as a Church of England School and the impact which this has on the pupils and the whole school community. The committee is responsible for evaluating the impact of the school's distinctive Christian ethos on the HT's & GB vision. They monitor the effectiveness of opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development across the curriculum and school and look at ways in which collective worship has a positive impact on school life and opportunities for pupils to participate in planning, leading and evaluating collective worship. They contribute to discussions on the quality and effectiveness of teaching and learning in RE. They discuss and monitor the types of partnership developed between the school and other communities, including, parents, the Parish Church, the Diocese and worldwide communities and monitor the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools through the SIAMS tool kit.

The **Quality & Standards Committee** meets five or six times a year and monitors and challenges educational standards and results. They also oversee and ensure respective subject action plans that are prepared and updated as necessary. The committee monitors the effective process of Governor visits to the School, including ensuring visit reports are recorded and filed and ensures the School meets its requirements in respect of Special Educational Needs and tracks effective spending of Pupil Premium. The Committee looks at the School Self Evaluation in the areas of Achievement and Quality of teaching. It is responsible for tracking and overseeing all aspects of Child Protection and Safeguarding. They review the annual Safeguarding audit and follow up any changes required. They are responsible for the schools policies on Sex and Relationships, E Safety, EYFS and the Home School Agreement.

The **Resources Committee** meets six or seven times a year and is concerned with all aspects of finance. This committee formulates, and recommends for approval by GB, school budget plans. They monitor expenditure and the effective running of the School's finances during the year. They ensure financial reporting timings and standards of the School's Financial Value Standards are met. The committee draft and review staffing structure, appointment procedures in consultation with HT and oversee and review the schools Performance Management policy and Pay Policy. The committee monitors all Health and Safety procedures and regulations, including maintenance of buildings and grounds and capital expenditure projects. Safeguarding issues, chiefly under Health and Safety are also monitored. They oversee catering and cleaning contracts and the School & Traded Services.

The **Strategy Committee** meets four or five times a year. The committee tracks the Schools Self Evaluation in the areas of Leadership and Management and Behaviour. The committee checks the School Website meets statutory regulations and manages the

development of the content. They consider strategic forward planning influencing the future policy and direction of the School, including the curriculum, major school facilities and ground developments and the provision of extended schools. They discuss the School's approach and response to new educational initiatives and policies introduced by Government or other authorities. The committee oversees ways of promoting the school, the role of the School in the community and Public Relations. They discuss and review the schools policies on Collective worship, RE, Attendance, Equality and School Discipline.