

Wootey Infant School

Information for Prospective Governors



What we hope you will get out of being a governor

We aim to be a questioning governing body which supports and challenges the leadership of the school in the constant drive for improvement. We hope that by joining us you would gain:

- the knowledge that you are helping our school and children.
- the satisfaction of giving something back to our local community
- a sense of purpose and achievement
- new skills which may be useful elsewhere
- broader horizons
- new friends and workmates
- training and support in order to help you fulfil your duties and responsibilities including a Governor 'Buddy' as you settle in

What we hope you will be able to offer

Our governing body only operates as strongly as the members within it. Joining us is a commitment, and we ask for:

- time (for meetings, reading documents, visiting the school and attending training)
- commitment
- a willingness to learn
- a listening ear
- the ability to assimilate information, make judgements and take decisions
- flexibility and tact
- ability to work as part of a team
- a willingness to accept a public role (eg attending assemblies and other school events)
- a different point of view - our input is valued because of our own diverse experiences

Governors' Responsibilities

Governors are appointed to provide

- strong links between our school and community
- a wide experience of the outside world
- an independent view
- a visible form of accountability for the headteacher and staff of the school

- a team focusing on long term development and improvement
- accountability to the community for the use of resources and the standards of teaching and learning in school
- support for the headteacher and staff

At Wootey Infant School, all governors are expected to:

- Attend regular meetings of the governing body: currently we have 6 full Governing Body meetings per academic year, each lasting 2 hours; starting at 6.30pm (expenses are available to cover childcare costs if necessary).
- Work as a member of the governing body (not as an individual) in the best interests of the school, we communicate with each other between meetings largely by email.
- Show an interest in school activities: to visit the school at least once a year and write a report; to develop links with your Love a Gov class, to attend as many school events as possible (eg special assemblies, termly REACH award ceremonies, Christmas and Summer Fairs).
- Become well-informed about education in general and about their school in particular: to develop links with a Subject Leader (by email or in person), to read information as and when it is appropriate to support you in this role.
- Become familiar with the rules of school governance.
- Attend necessary training courses: always an induction course run by Hampshire CC, thereafter courses of interest/relevance to your role on the governing body and annual Full Governing Body governor training in school.

In addition, individual governors will usually be involved in some of the following activities often through groups or committees which report back to the main body

- staff appointments and performance management
- the financial management of the school
- pupil discipline
- the curriculum
- the training of governors
- liaising with parents and other stakeholders on behalf of the governing body
- community links