

Marsh Gibbon C of E First School

The Governing body, and the role of the Governor

What is a Governing Body?

The governing body represents the community in the running of the school. There is a reciprocal accountability between the governors, the head teacher and the teaching staff. The head is accountable to the governing body. Ofsted judges the governing body as part of the leadership of the school, and on the extent to which it works in partnership with the head teacher. Governing bodies are essential to school to ensure accountability and to support them in the work they do.

Why do schools need governors?

School governors bring perspectives from everyday life, and work with staff and the Local Education Authority to help the school provide the best possible education for all children. Governors provide the head teacher with support and advice, drawing on their knowledge and experience. They ask searching questions, whilst respecting the head teacher's position as professional leader of the school.

What do governors do?

School governors make important collective decisions, and the governing body is answerable to parents, the LEA and the community. All governors are volunteers who spend 8 – 10 hours each month working to further the school's development.

As well as being a member of the full Governing body, each Governor serves on one or more committees that specialises in a particular aspect of the school, for example, the finance committee, the premises committee, the curriculum committee, or perhaps a working party linked to a particular local or national initiative. ***Details of the Governor committees of our school can be found both on the school website, and in the information folder in the school foyer.***

The key responsibilities of the governing body include:

- setting the school's aims, values and policies
- promoting high standards of education and achievement
- monitoring and evaluating the school's work
- playing a critical role in school improvement
- assisting the head teacher with budgetary allocation and control
- making sure that the curriculum is broad and balanced
- reporting on the school's achievements and responding to inspection recommendations.
- ensuring that all pupils have access to the full range of extra-curricular activities
- ensuring that children in their school are treated fairly and with dignity and have equality of opportunity
- appointing senior staff, including the Head teacher
- planning the school's long-term future
- hearing complaints, grievances and appeals

How is our governing body comprised?

Marsh Gibbon C of E First School has twelve governors. There are several different types of governor, each type being appointed or elected by a different stakeholder

- 7 Foundation Governors: appointed by the Diocese of Oxford
- 2 Parent Governors: elected by parents of pupils at the school
- 1 LEA Governor: appointed by the Local Education Authority
- Head Teacher: automatic membership
- 1 Staff Governor: elected by staff at the school

More details of the current Governors of our school can be found both on the school website, and in the information folder in the school foyer.

In addition, schools may choose to appoint associate members to the Governing body to bring a particular expertise. They are not governors but may be members of committees or working parties.

At Marsh Gibbon school, we would be pleased to hear from anyone who is interested in becoming an associate member. We particularly require volunteers who can bring marketing experience to the Governing body.

What are the governors' responsibilities for the school curriculum?

Governors take responsibility for all the learning opportunities that pupils experience including spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. The governors also decide a curriculum policy for the school, which takes account of the Local Authority's policy, the National Curriculum and technological advances. Governors also need to keep abreast of national and local initiatives and make any necessary adjustments to the curriculum to ensure that the curriculum prepares the pupils for the world they will live in as adults in the 21st century.

Who can become a school governor?

Governors are people from the local community and they come from all walks of life. Anyone who cares about children and wishes to make a positive contribution to the education they receive can make a difference by volunteering to become a school governor, and helping to shape the future of their local school.

If you have any questions on any aspect of the role of the Governor, or would like more information, please don't hesitate to contact any member of the Governing body. Contact details can be found on the school website, or in the information folder in the school foyer.