

Benefits of Being a School Governor

Families are a child's first and main educators, by becoming a governor, you can work hand in hand to support your child's learning, and influence the direction that the school is taking.

Parents and grandparents are important people to have on a governing body because, alongside the staff, no one is more concerned with the quality of the teaching and learning provision of the school. Having your child's/grandchild's best interests at heart means that you'll also have the school's best interests at heart, which makes you committed to the school's continuous improvement for the benefit of your child/grandchild.

Part of the role of a governor is to be a 'critical friend,' supporting the school but also challenging it and holding it accountable. Governors get to have a say in just about every aspect of how the school is run – from how much homework children get to recruitment of new members of staff – and your prior knowledge of the school from a parent's/grandparents perspective means you'll be empowered to challenge decisions and offer your own viewpoint.

Not only will your efforts as a governor benefit your child and their school, but they can also benefit your own personal and professional development. Governors have access to a range of training opportunities through the local authority and education service providers. Allowing you to gain a variety of new skills and develop the ones you already have. It doesn't matter if you don't think your career experience is relevant to education; governing bodies need people from all backgrounds who can bring their professional knowledge to the school.

Becoming a governor can bring you great personal and professional benefits, particularly if you've taken a career break to focus on your family. Being a governor is a valuable addition to your CV and shows future employers that you have remained committed to your own development despite taking time out of the working world. Alternatively, if you have retired, being a governor is an excellent way to support your grandchildren's education and to play an active part within the community. **As a governor, you'll be benefiting not only the school, but your child and yourself, too – it's the perfect opportunity to make a difference.**

Claire Hardiman, Co-opt Governor and Grandparent