

Role of a Parent Governor

You have a unique position of having a parental viewpoint:

- First hand experience of the curriculum
- How the school is perceived from a consumers' point of view

This is the perspective you bring to the strategic management of the school

What must you have?

- An interest (passion?) in improving the future of all children
- A desire to make a difference
- A willingness to accept responsibility
- Objectivity
- An ability to work in a team
- Ask questions
- Listen and learn

Parent Governor - specifics

- A parent governor is a representative parent rather than a representative of parents
- Elected by other parents
- Not vote in a particular way because of pressure from parents
- Not promoting the interests of own children but **all** children
- Important to establish a rapport with parents

An effective Parent Governor will

- Offer support to HT and Leadership Team
- Work in partnership with HT and SLT and cooperatively with other governors
- Act as a critical friend
- Help decide school priorities to improve outcomes
- Prepare for meetings, reading papers beforehand coming with questions
- Be available to parents

An effective Parent Governor will

- Attend full GB and committees
- Take responsibility for personal development
- Promote school in wider community
- Respect confidentiality and boundaries
- Never promise to 'solve a problem' to parents
- Guide parents regarding appropriate lines of action and procedures, including the school complaints procedure

An effective Parent Governor will

- Declare an interest where unable to be impartial
- Never press own child's case at expense of others
- Visit school
- Have regard for broader responsibilities as governor of a public institution
- Accountable for actions and performance of GB