

Why Become a Governor?

Across the country there are around 300,000 school governors helping to support school leadership teams. But what is it about the role, which encourages so many committed volunteers to apply? Well, here are 6 reasons to become a governor...

1 - Making a difference.

The first reason to become a governor reflects both the fundamental purpose of the role and the main motivation, which should be behind *anyone* becoming a governor: to make a positive difference to the life chances of children.

School governors provide critical challenge and support to the leadership team of a school with the ultimate aim of driving up standards. Acting as a school governor is a fantastic opportunity to have an impact on education and positively influence children's lives.

2 - Get to know your community.

Governors are part of the strategic leadership team of a school, and what better way to get to know your community here in Speen than support an institution, which lies at the heart of it? Schools are always tied deeply within the fabric of their community and it is part of the role of being a governor to ensure the school is accountable to the area it serves.

3 - Develop your skills.

As well as giving something back to the community, school governors develop a range of both new and existing skills. Governors receive free training and there is a wealth of independent governor training providers, which offer opportunities for professional development.

It may be that governors develop their professional expertise in a specific capacity, for example with financial professionals on a Finance Committee. Or it could be softer skills, which governors develop like team working as the governing body deliberate to come to a vital decision. Being a governor is a fantastic chance to develop your skills in a unique environment.

4 - Improve your knowledge about the education sector.

Whilst school staff will make up part of a governing body and whilst experience in education is a valuable attribute for governors to have, as a new school governor you are not expected to have a working knowledge of the education sector. What is more important to the role is a specific working skill

set relevant to the operations of a governing body (HR, data analysis, finance, project management) and commitment to the position.

As a governor you will gain a fascinating insight into how schools work and how the education sector is changing and continues to change. It may be that you want to get a better understanding of your child's education or you may have an interest in the sector more generally. Whatever your intrigue, you're guaranteed to gain a further appreciation of the work of teachers and school leaders as well as the type of challenges schools face.

5 - It's a challenge.

There's no denying that being a school governor is a challenge, but that's a good thing. The role *should* be a challenge (because it's important) and it can put you out of your comfort zone when you have to get to grips with new policies, procedures and problems.

This challenge does not necessarily mean the role is time consuming – though of course it can be – but it will certainly, at least initially, challenge you to think in new ways and work with new people. It may be that you are putting your professional skills to use in a new context or getting to grips with a whole new sector, but the very challenge of the role should be embraced and most governors find this very rewarding.

6 - It's fun!

Being a school governor is fun. The fact that the role is so enjoyable is probably one of the main reasons why there are so many governors giving up their time to help.

It may be specifically *because* of one of the reasons above governors find it fun or for a whole other reason not covered: governors' experiences can be different depending on their school and specific responsibilities. A great way to find out why governors enjoy the role is to chat with someone who *is* a governor! Try and chat to friends or colleagues who have experience in the role – you'd be surprised how many governors you know.

If you want to find out more about being a school governor, please do not hesitate to ask us on governors@speen-cofe.bucks.sch.uk.