

The Role of a Parent Governor

Our Trust family of schools prides itself on great relationships with our local community, local businesses and employers, colleges and universities. One of the most important relationships all our schools have is with the parents/carers of our learners. Our schools each have a Stronger Together (Parents and Carers Forum) which meet regularly to help our School Leaders develop their schools and lead curriculum innovation and enrichment, as well as site developments and exciting new initiatives.

Learners are most successful when the communication between home, school and the learner themselves is strong. Schools and families need to work together to support our learners to be the very best version of themselves each and every day. We thank all our families for working collaboratively with schools to ensure their child receives a first class education, coupled with great care, guidance and support.

As a Parent Governor, your role is to communicate a parent/carer perspective and to help the School Governing Board (SGB) understand a parent/carers' viewpoint. This helps make good decisions and maintain a link between governance and the parent/carer community. We believe in creating ongoing opportunities for our parent/carer community while keeping our governance fresh and inclusive. To therefore maintain a dynamic and forward-thinking governing board, Parent Governors serve one four-year term, ensuring new voices and perspectives regularly have the chance to contribute to the school's future.

What does this mean in practice?

As a Governor, you are responsible for the progress and wellbeing of all learners at the school, so keep this at the forefront of your mind in meetings.

You must rely on a wide range of sources to make strategic decisions and hold the Trust Headteacher and Senior Leaders to account. These include high-quality, objective data and the views of learners, staff, parents/carers and the community.

Parent Governors should not be contacted directly by other parents/carers regarding complaints (*the normal complaints procedure for complaints should be followed for this*). However, a Parent Governor should be highlighting how SGB decisions impact the school from a parent/carer's perspective.

When discussing issues in meetings:

- Do remember that you are acting in the interests of **all** learners at the school.
- Don't bring up your child(ren), or refer to anecdotal evidence based only on your child(ren), or a friend's experience.

If you have a complaint concerning your child(ren), you must follow the complaints procedure, even as a Parent Governor.

Please see the examples below of questions/comments that Parent Governors should be asking:

Example	Please avoid saying	Do ask
School uniform change	'As a parent/carer, I've spoken to other parents in the playground and we all think the uniform shouldn't change.'	'Has the school consulted parents/carers on the proposed uniform changes? If not, why not?' 'How has the school explained the proposed changes to parents/carers?' 'Has the school considered the cost of this change to parents/carers?'
Menu change	'Parents/carers have come up to me asking why the menu has changed. They say they prefer the old one.'	'How have parents/carers been consulted on the new menu?' 'Has the school explained to parents/carers the reasons behind the change?' 'What alternative provision is available for learners whose parents/carers disagree with the menu changes?' 'How will this change impact parents/carers?'
Curriculum change	'Parents/carers want me to express to you that they disagree with the changes. They don't feel the changes reflect what they want their children to be taught.' 'A number of parents/carers have told me they're confused about why the curriculum has changed.'	'How has the school communicated the curriculum change to parents/carers?' 'Have parents/carers been given the opportunity to ask questions and get further clarity?'

Set expectations with other parents/carers

Help other parents/carers understand that you're not there to:

- Speak on their behalf
- Bring up their individual issues in meetings
- Solve problems for them

Please encourage parents/carers to attend the Stronger Together Parent and Carer forums, or contact the school directly in the event they would like to share their concerns.

Parent Governors play a vital role in school leadership by bringing a direct, community perspective to the school governing board, ensuring educational decisions actively align with the best interests of learners and families. We truly value this role across our schools and the Trust, as we know strong partnerships are the foundation of a thriving school experience.