



The role of the Governing Body at Furze Platt Senior School

School governors make important collective decisions and the Governing Body is answerable to parents and the community. The responsibilities of the Governing Body include:

- promoting high standards of education and achievement
- planning the school's long term future
- settling the school's aims and values
- appointing senior staff including the Headteacher
- budgetary allocation and control
- deciding on the number of staff to be employed
- making sure that the curriculum is broad and balanced

The Headteacher is accountable to the Governing Body and the Governing Body is judged by Ofsted, as part of the leadership of the school and on the extent to which it works in partnership with the Headteacher and leadership team.

Governors have three main roles:

Strategic:

- vision for the school
- developing aims for the school
- planning so that all pupils can achieve the very best they can

School Improvement:

- monitor and evaluate the school's work
- visit the school
- ensure that all meetings are effective by reading all papers prior to the meeting and preparing their questions and for areas that they would like to discuss at the meeting

Accountability:

- reporting on progress
- reciprocal accountability between school leaders and governors
- the accountability to parents and the community they serve
- annual report and accounts of the academy

The most effective governors:

- are willing to accept responsibility
- are willing to ask questions and challenge the school when necessary – Headteachers and leadership teams welcome challenge if the effect is to improve the life chances of pupils
- are eager to be a part of a team with a common purpose and understand the importance of valuing different viewpoints and perspectives
- understand the value of life-long learning and show this by undertaking relevant training and development opportunities
- care about children and young people
- want children and young people to enjoy their years at school and achieve the best that they can
- are keen to put something back into their community

Different types of Governors:

- Parent Governors: elected by parents of pupils at the school.
Staff Governors: elected by staff at the school. Community Governors: elected by other members of the Governing Body.
- Associate Governors: appointed by members of the Governing Body. They have skills and working background knowledge in other areas than those of the other Governing Body members. Headteacher: automatic membership.

Governors need to be able to attend Full Governing Body meetings, usually 5 a year and a strategy meeting. In addition, they will also be asked to sit on a committee of the Governing Body that also meets 3- 6 times a year, which specialises in a particular aspect of the school, such as, the Resource Committee, Staff Development Committee, Pupils & Parents Committee, Teaching & Learning, Governance or perhaps a committee or working party linked to a particular school strategy, local or national initiative.

All governors have a criminal records' check before taking up their position. The term of office of elected governors is four years. Individual governors are appointed for Health and Safety, Pupil Premium, Safeguarding, Special Educational Needs and Careers.

Anyone who cares about children and young people and the education they receive can make a difference by becoming a school governor and helping shape the future for children and young people in their own local community. Governors come from all walks of life.

Objects and Aims:

The principal object of the trust to advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, by maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing Furze Platt Senior School to offer a broad and balanced secondary curriculum and an academic sixth form for pupils of different abilities who are wholly or mainly drawn from the area in which the school is situated. The aim is for the school to be at the heart of its community, promoting community cohesion and sharing facilities with other schools and the wider community and that it will have an emphasis on the needs of the individual pupils.

Method of Recruitment and Appropriate or Election of Trustees:

The Governors are directors of the charitable company for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006 and trustees for the purposes of charity legislation. Governors fall into different categories:

- Parent Governors are elected by parents or carers of registered pupils and must be such parents or carers at the time of their election. If insufficient parents stand for election, the Governing Body can appoint Parent Governors.
- Staff Governors are elected by and from staff in two separate categories: teaching staff and non-teaching staff. If insufficient staff stand for election, the Governing Body can appoint Staff Governors.
- Governors represent the local community and also bring particular knowledge, skills or expertise to the Governing Body. These Governors are voted on by the Governing Body of the Academy.

Organisational Structure:

The Governors meet as a Full Governing Body five times a year with various committee meetings of the 5 sub committees namely:

- Governance
- Resources
- Salaries
- Teaching, Learning & Staff Development
- Pupils and Parents

The senior member of staff to whom day to day management of the charity is delegated is Tanya White, the Headteacher. The organisational structure consists of three levels, the Governors, the Senior Leadership Team and the Middle Leadership Team. The aim of the management structure is to devolve responsibility and encourage decision making at all levels. The Governors are responsible for setting general policies, adopting an annual plan and budget and monitoring the Academy's capital expenditure.

The Senior Leadership Team consists of the Headteacher, an Associate Headteacher, two Assistant Headteachers, three Associate Assistant Headteachers and a Head of Operations and Business Development. These managers control the Academy at an executive level, implementing policies laid down by the Governors, and reporting to them. All authorisation of spending within agreed budgets is delegated to the Middle Leaders. The Middle Leaders co-ordinate the day to day activities within their specific subject area, in particular organising the teaching staff, facilities and students.

In June 2015, a Governance Committee was formed to support the Governing Body in developing a co-ordinated strategy for the school. It considers all issues relating to governance, identifying areas where structural, process improvements and efficiencies can be made and makes appropriate recommendations.

Staffing appointments along with any changes to the staffing structure are agreed at a strategic, 'in principle', level by the newly merged Teaching, Learning and Staff Development Committee. Governors are involved in all Senior Leader appointments and Middle Leader appointments wherever possible.

Pay decisions are made by the Salaries Committee and reported annually to the Full Governing Body. The Resources Committee (previously Site and Finance) has strategic oversight of all staffing spending and advises Governors of any budgetary constraints or considerations.

The Academy has the Head of Operations and Business Development as Company Secretary.

Historic attendance of Governors at Full Governing Body meetings can be seen in our statement of accounts.

Related Parties and other Connected Charities and Organisations:

The school at present does not have any business sponsors, however the school does work closely with the Primary Headteachers from the feeder schools and other academies within the area.