



Dania School

BECOMING A DANIA SCHOOL PARENT GOVERNOR

What do School Governors do?

School governors are volunteers who help to run the school from a board level. Parent Governors do not run the school day to day, but are involved in decisions about all aspects of managing the school – such as running buildings and budgets, supporting staff and setting standards of school discipline. Governors also help to make decisions about the school's long-term goals. They support Headteachers and staff, and will always publicly support all decisions made by the Governing Body. A Parent Governor is not a spokesperson for particular views of parents, but a parental viewpoint.

What does the role involve?

Governors serve for a four-year term. Elected Parent Governors may continue to serve out their term of office if their child leaves the school.

Being a Governor does take up time. There are about 8 Board meetings a year, and Parent Governors attend with the rest of the Governors and Trustees. You will need to set aside time to be able to be an effective governor: time to prepare for meetings. It is estimated that Governors work for between 4-6 hours per month.

As Dania School is a Charity its governors are also part of the management. We comply with the Charities Commission guidance. <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/charity-commission>

There are several tasks for Governors to undertake and they include:

- Get to know the school, its needs, strengths and areas for development
- Attend meetings and Working Groups
- Work as a member of a team
- Act within the framework of the policies of the Governing Body and legal requirements
- Speak, act and vote in the best interests of the school
- Understand its targets and performance
- Awareness of the ISA Framework
- Respect all Governing Body decisions and support them in public

Person Specification

Governors have a variety of skills and knowledge but there are a number of **essential** qualities required of any Governor and they include:

- An interest in the education of all children
- Committed to the vision and values of the school

- Sound communication skills in listening, speaking and writing
- Assimilation skills to help absorb and make use of wide ranges of information and data
- The capacity to develop specific knowledge and understanding of the school and its community
- A commitment to securing the best educational outcomes for all children
- Tact and diplomacy
- An ability to work as a member of a team
- An ability to respect confidentiality - please see our code of conduct

Who can be a Parent Governor?

Anyone who has parental responsibility and is over the age of 18. Parent is defined as including 'any individual who has or has had parental responsibility for, or cares or has cared for, a child or young person under the age of 18. It includes a person who the child lives with and who looks after the child, irrespective of what their relationship is with the child. This must be someone involved in the full-time care of the child on a settled basis.

Enhanced DBS checks for school governors are mandatory.

Please see appendix for when a person is qualified/ disqualified from being a parent governor.

How to become a parent governor

When there is a vacancy every 4th year and you would like to put your name forward, inform the current parent governor. You may write a brief candidate statement (200 words maximum) to support your nomination. This should be emailed to the the current parent governor.

If the number of nominations is the same as or less than the number of vacancies then candidates are elected unopposed and there is no need for a ballot. At Dania we have 2 seats. If there are more nominations than vacancies a ballot will take place, and the candidate statements will be circulated with the ballot papers among all parents at Dania School. The current parent governor will inform all parents of the election no later than 6-8 weeks prior to their end of office.