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## How do I become a school governor?

If you're interested in becoming a governor, you can talk to the current chair of governors Chris Young or our headteacher Mrs Turner. When there's a vacancy for a parent governor all parents will be informed, and you'll have a chance to stand for election. Look out for a letter coming home with the children

Before you put yourself forward, talk to your employer. Many employers recognise the role of school governor as useful work experience and may offer paid leave for governor duties.

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## What is a school governor?

School governors are volunteers who help to **run** the school. Most schools work with a group of school governors - together they're called the '**governing body**'. They're 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 big decisions about the school's long-term goals. They support headteachers, but also ask questions and make sure the headteacher is taking the school in the right direction.

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## Who can be a school governor?

**Anyone over 18** can be a school governor - you don't **have** to be a parent with a child at the school. However, every governing body includes **parent governors**, and it can be a rewarding way to be involved in your child's school.

The most important qualities for being a governor are **enthusiasm, commitment** and an **interest in education**. You don't need teaching experience, but it's useful to bring skills from other areas of your life.

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## What does the role involve?

At most schools you'll need to attend a governors' meeting each half term. You'll also be expected to join one or two **sub-committees** - these cover the curriculum, finance or buildings. You'll need to be able to work well in a team, as you'll be making **joint decisions** on policy.

Demands on your time depend partly on how the school is doing generally. Being a governor will be a **busy role** if the school's results are getting worse or it's going through a big change like appointing a **new headteacher**, or joining with another school.

As a governor you'll probably need to work eight to ten hours a month, assuming your school is in a reasonable position.