Categories of Governor

Parent Governors – Parent Governors are elected by other parents at the school. Any parent, or carer, of a registered pupil at the school at the time of election is eligible to stand for election as a Parent Governor. Parent Governors may continue to hold office until the end of their term of office even if their child leaves the school. Schools must make every reasonable effort to fill Parent Governor vacancies through elections. However, the regulations make provision for the Governing Body to appoint Parent Governors where there are not enough parents standing for election.

Staff Governor - Teaching and support staff, who, at the time of election are employed by either the Governing Body or the Local Authority to work at the school under a contract of employment, are eligible to be Staff Governors. Staff Governors are elected by the school staff. They cease to hold office when they cease to work at the school.

Headteacher – The Headteacher is a member of the Governing Body by virtue of their office.

Co-opted Governor – Co-opted Governors are appointed by the Governing Body. They are people who in the opinion of the Governing Body have the skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school.

Local Authority Governor - These are nominated by the Local Authority but appointed by the Governing Body. The Local Authority can nominate any eligible person, but it is for the Governing Body to decide whether their nominee has the skills to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school.

Foundation Governor – In Voluntary Aided and Controlled schools Foundation Governors form the majority of Governors. This reflects the financial contribution made by the Church to the maintenance and improvement of the buildings, and the requirement that Voluntary Aided and Controlled schools should provide Christian religious education and worship in accordance with the school’s Trust Deed. Foundation Governors are appointed by either the Diocese, the church or some other foundation body to represent the providers of the school.

Useful Contacts

Roman Catholic Diocese:
Director of Schools Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle, St Cuthbert’s House, West Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE15 7PY
Telephone: 0191 243 3313

Church of England Diocese:
Diocesan Board of Education, Education Board Ltd, Church House, St John’s Terrace, Percy Main
North Shields, NE29 6HS
Telephone: 0191 270 4100
Associate Member – Associate Members are not Governors but are appointed to the Governing Body because it is felt they can offer particular skills or areas of expertise. They may have limited voting rights.

Eligibility
You are eligible to become a Governor if you are over the age of 18 have not been declared bankrupt or convicted of certain criminal offences (for full eligibility see eligibility link on the website)

The eligibility criteria also applies to Associate Members although you can be under 18 years of age (eg. pupils at the school).

Term of Office
Usually FOUR years, but this can vary and if, for any reason a Governor’s circumstances change and they feel unable to fulfil the duties of Governorship, they can resign at any time within this period.