

Categories of Governor

The number of governors in each school is set out in the school's Instrument of Government which has been agreed by the governing body in conjunction with the LA and if appropriate the relevant church diocesan authorities. The relative number of each category of governor is controlled by legislation.

The School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2012.

PARENT GOVERNORS

Parents, including carers, of registered pupils at the school are eligible to stand for election as parent governors of the school. Parent governors are elected by other parents of pupils at the school. If insufficient parents stand for election, the governing body can appoint parent governors.

A person is disqualified from election or appointment as a parent governor of a school if they are an elected member of the local authority or if they work at the school for more than 500 hours in a school year (at the time of election or appointment).

There must be a minimum of TWO elected parent governors.

STAFF GOVERNORS

Both teaching and support staff paid to work at the school are eligible to be staff governors. With the exception of the headteacher, they are elected by the school staff and they must be paid to work at the school; volunteers are not eligible.

There is only a place for ONE staff governor on the governing body. The place can be occupied by a teacher or a member of the support staff.

In both cases, the headteacher is a member of the governing body by virtue of their office (ex-officio). The headteacher can choose whether to be a governor or not but the headteacher's place remains reserved for them and cannot be taken by anyone else.

LOCAL AUTHORITY GOVERNORS

Local Authority governors are nominated by the LA and appointed by the governing body and can be any eligible person. A person is disqualified from appointment as an authority governor if they are eligible to be a staff governor of the school.

There is only ONE place for a Local Authority governor on the governing body.

CO-OPTED GOVERNORS

Co-opted governors are appointed by the governing body and are people who in the opinion of the governing body have the skills required to contribute to the effective governance of the school.

FOUNDATION GOVERNORS

Foundation governors are appointed by the school's founding body or church named in the school's instrument of government. Foundation governors may hold the governorship ex officio, as the holder of an office specified in the instrument of government e.g. the minister of the church that the school is linked to. If the school has a religious character the foundation governors must preserve and develop this. They must also ensure compliance with the trust deed, if there is one. If there is more than one body that has the right to appoint foundation governors, the instrument of government must specify the bodies concerned and the basis on which appointments are made.

PARTNERSHIP GOVERNORS

Partnership governors exist are appointed by the governing body. Governing bodies do not have to have any partnership governors and special rules apply. Only those with the skills needed to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school are eligible for nomination and appointment.

SPONSOR GOVERNORS

Sponsor governors are appointed by the governing body. It is at the governing body's discretion whether they choose to appoint sponsor governors or not. If the governing body wants to appoint one or two sponsor governors it must seek nominations from the sponsor(s). Persons who give substantial assistance to the school, financially or in kind, or who provide services to the school can be appointed by the governing body as sponsor governors. Sponsor Governors must appear on the Instrument of Government.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

The governing body can appoint associate members to serve on one or more governing body committees and attend full governing body meetings. The definition of associate member is wide and pupils, school staff and people who want to contribute specifically on issues related to their area of expertise (for instance finance) can be appointed as associate members.

Associate members are appointed as members of any committees established by the governing body. They are appointed for a period between one and four years and can be reappointed at the end of their term of office. Associate members are not governors and they are not recorded in the Instrument.

Associate members over the age of 18 can be given voting rights on committees. If so this must be detailed in the terms of reference for the committee. Associate members cannot vote at a full governing body meeting.