



www.dallingtonschool.co.uk

Guidelines on becoming a Governor at Dallington School

Independent schools are not covered by the rules about governors and governing bodies that apply to state schools. They have to comply with many laws and regulations, but how they run their governing body is at their own discretion.

Each independent school has its own constitution, which will dictate what mix of people should sit on the governing body and how these people should be appointed or elected. Each school will have its own balance of parents, teachers, staff and others.

Independent schools are often interested in appointing people with practical management, financial or legal experience to their governing body, such as businessmen, lawyers or accountants.

School governors are there to ensure that schools are well run. They are volunteers who help decide on the direction, focus and ethos of schools. Each school has between 10 and 20 governors who together form the 'governing body'.

Governors represent people from many walks of life. This means that school decisions are made by people with a wide range of experience and views.

School governors are there to help, give a long-term strategic direction on how the school is run, be critical friends to the school and ensure the school is accountable for its actions.

School governors should have access to all school policies so that they can contribute their expertise in discussion. They should also discuss and have input on:

- Long term plans and the future of the school
- Drafting the annual report to parents
- Complaints from pupils, staff and parents
- Repair and maintenance of school buildings
- Use of school premises outside school hours
- Matters relating to the off-site playground
- The involvement of Friends of Dallington



The governing body often appoints sub-committees of governors to look at specific issues such as the school's finance, curriculum and premises.

Normally governors serve for four years but, as volunteers, they can leave at any time. A governor's main task is to attend meetings of the school governing body. These normally take place once a term in the evening. You should be given seven clear days' notice of governing body meetings. Shorter notice can only be given if the chair agrees there is an urgent need for a meeting. If you miss several meetings in a row, you may be deemed to have resigned from the governing board.

Each school has different types of governor. Typical governing boards in England and Wales include: parent governors, staff governors and community governors. Governors are appointed irrespective of race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin, sex, disability, marital status, sexual orientation or religion. Head teachers automatically sit on the governing body as a staff governor. Often schools have additional staff governors, who are school employees (e.g. teachers, support or administrative staff). Parents with children at the school are eligible to become a parent governor.

Useful websites and links for School Governors

Link to A Guide to the Law for School Governors (a DfES publication):

<http://www.governor.net.co.uk/linkAttachments/GTTL%20June%202007%20-%20pdf.pdf>

Please ask if you would like a printed copy of this document.

National Governors' Association

<http://www.nga.org.uk/>

Association of Governing Bodies of Independent Schools

<http://www.agbis.org.uk/>

Governorline - a free telephone helpline service (08000 722 181)

www.governorline.info