

## What do governors do?

The governors' role is not about fund-raising, neither is it about cheerleading for the school - though governors might do both those things. School governors provide **strategic leadership** and **accountability in schools**. Governors appoint the headteacher and may be involved in the appointment of other staff. It is governors who hold the main responsibility for finance in schools, and it is governors who work with the head teacher to make the tough decisions about balancing resources.

Each individual governor is a member of a governing body, which is established in law as a corporate body. Individual governors may not act independently of the rest of the governing body. **Decisions are the joint responsibility of the governing body.**

The role of the governing body is a strategic one, its key functions are to:

- set the aims and objectives for the school
- set the policies for achieving those aims and objectives
- set the targets for achieving those aims and objectives
- monitor and evaluate the progress the school is making towards achievement of its aims and objectives
- be a source of challenge and support to the headteacher (a critical friend)

The headteacher is responsible for the internal organisation, daily operational decisions, management and control of the school and the implementation of the strategic framework established by the governing body.

## Who can become a governor?

Almost anyone over 18 years of age can become a governor. There are no particular qualifications or requirements, other than a willingness to give time to the role and a capacity for working with other people. There are different types of school with different categories of governor.

There are also different categories of governor:

- parent
- staff
- community
- co-opted
- local authority

We also have some people who act as Associate Governors who work with the school on specific projects or aspects of Governance.

All governors have the same roles and responsibilities once part of the governing body, they are responsible for strategic planning and overall governance of the school and they help and to build good relationships between the school, parents and our local community. Our parent governors are very valuable members of the governing body and we rely on them to help us to keep in touch with what parents are thinking. They are on the governing body as representative parents, but they are not delegates and other parents cannot mandate them on how they should vote.

For more information, please go to [www.nga.org.uk/Can-we-help/Be-a-Governor.aspx](http://www.nga.org.uk/Can-we-help/Be-a-Governor.aspx)