



The Federation of Burley and Sopley Primary Schools



Would you like to serve as a school governor? A real chance to make a difference for children and to contribute to the community.

We are currently seeking applications to serve on the governing board of our two village schools.

We are a governance federation for 2 local primary schools, Burley Primary School and Sopley Primary School. We are looking for Governors who can show a commitment to improve outcomes for our children and are prepared to offer their energy, expertise and time to help our federation to succeed in this objective.

Our schools are rural primary schools set within the Forest, with approximately 110 pupils in each school from Reception to Year 6 with mixed year group classes. Information about the schools can be found on their websites <http://burley.hants.sch.uk/> <http://www.sopleyprimaryschool.org/>

What governors do - roles and responsibilities

Governors are strategic leaders within schools and have a vital role to play in making sure every child gets the best possible education. The role of the school Governor is demanding but very rewarding and is a great way to give back to your local community. Good schools need good Governors.

Governing bodies have a strong focus on three core strategic functions:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and direction
- Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of the staff
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent

Each individual Governor is a member of a governing board and all decisions are the joint responsibility of the governing board. As a Governor, you attend meetings, be prepared to ask questions after having read the associated paperwork and school visits. You will be expected to attend training and could also have a special responsibility assigned to you, for example, Development and Training, Safeguarding or Health and Safety.

No one Governor is expected to know it all. The strength of a governing board lies in its ability to attract and rely upon members from a wide variety of backgrounds, share out the duties amongst its members, and be able to take decisions as a group.

How much time is involved?

We suggest about 20-30 hours per term. Governing bodies are involved in; reading of paperwork and the preparation of questions before meetings, attending whole governing body and committee meetings, visits to school and school trips, special projects, staff recruitment and reviewing policies and the school's budget. It's a very varied, interesting and fulfilling role.

What skills do you need to become a Governor?

- A commitment and interest in our children's future and improving educational outcomes
- Inquisitiveness to read paperwork, analyse and question
- The ability to assimilate information, make judgements and take decisions
- Good inter-personal skills and the ability to work as a team
- Time
- Although not essential, governing bodies may be looking for experience of areas such as education, finance, personnel, business, etc.

Our governing body is made up of up to 15 governors; 2 Parent Governors, 1 Staff Governor, 1 Local Authority Governor, 1 Executive Headteacher & 10 Co-opted Governors. All our Governors are Governors of the federation. Each Governor needs to get to know both schools in order to serve the interests of the children in both schools. We work very well together as a team using our individual strengths and have a wide range of skills and experience between us.

Meetings are held in both schools (during the school day and in the evening) so Governors will need to be prepared to travel to both venues.

All Governors are required to complete a skills audit to ensure that people can be matched to suitable roles and that co-opted Governors can be selected to complement the skills and experience of the other Governors.

A full induction and training in all areas of governance is available from Hampshire Governor Services and all Governors are expected to undertake development and training to enable them to discharge their duties effectively.

Further information is available online from Hampshire Governor Services

<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/education/governors/gov-volunteer/whatgovernorsdo.htm>

What will you get out of being a governor?

Being a school governor can be a very rewarding role. Here are some benefits that others have found:

- The knowledge that you are helping schools and pupils
- The satisfaction of giving something back to the community
- A sense of purpose and achievement
- New skills which may be transferable elsewhere
- Broader horizons
- New friends and workmates
- Training and support in order to help you fulfil your duties and responsibilities

Thank you for your interest in our federation, we would be delighted to meet with you to discuss the role of a Governor and the federation in further detail. For more information or to arrange a visit, please contact clerk to the Governors, Brian Townshend, Burley Primary School, Church Lane, Burley, BH23 4AP, 01425 403375 or b.townshend@burley.hants.sch.uk