

Governing Board

Parent Governor



The role of Parent Governor is to serve as a member of the Governing Board for a period of four years and assist in the strategic running of the school to ensure the best possible outcomes for the students.

The role of the Governor has changed dramatically in the past few years and the Governing Board at St Paul's has drastically overhauled the way we work with the management team at the school. If you have a passion for education and a commitment to helping the pupils at St Paul's achieve their full potential we want to hear from you.

Parent Governors are elected and must be a parent or guardian of a child on the school roll at the time of their election. If their children leave the school before the end of their term of office, they may still continue to the end of the term of office.

Parent Governors are full Governors and can take part in all aspects of the work of the Governing Board providing they do not have a conflicting financial or personal interest. Parent Governors however are well placed to understand parents' views and to remind the Governing Board how matters being discussed affect parents. Parent Governors are equal in status to all other Governors and how you vote on matters is up to you. Your input therefore has the potential to make a difference for not only for your children, but for children in years to come.

All Governors work to support the leadership team of the school by helping the Governing Board to carry out its three statutory roles:

- 1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;*
- 2. Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils and working with the Leadership Group in the school to identify how St Paul's can improve; and*
- 3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.*

Full training will be provided and you will be supported in your work by a dedicated team of like-minded people who together want to deliver an outstanding education to all of the pupils in the school. You will need access to a computer, be able to commit around 20 hours per term and be willing to serve a term of office of four years. Whilst no specific expertise or experience is a requirement for nomination, we are particularly interested in receiving applications from people with experience of working in the education sector or with an interest in European languages.

Key Duties:

- Ensure that the ethos and environment of the school are consistent with the aims of a Catholic education.
- Deliver strategic guidance to the school management team and act as their 'critical friend' by providing appropriate support and challenge.
- Understand the strengths, weaknesses and character of the school and develop productive relationships with the school management team and teaching Board.
- Attend at least one 'Governor Visit' morning per year to help with getting to know the school.
- Attend training sessions provided by the local authority to equip you with the skills you need to become an effective governor

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- Support the work of one of the Permanent Committees and one of the sub-committees for a period of four years.
- Actively participate in permanent committee meetings, sub-committee meetings, strategy meetings and full Governing Board meetings. All meetings are held on weekdays at the school, commence at 6.30pm and are time limited to two hours.
- Review and collaborate at meetings and online with documentation and data reviews, including, but not limited to: policy documents, financial reports, progress data, teaching reviews and school visit reports. If you do not have access to a computer the Governing Board can provide a suitable laptop computer upon request.

Note: Section 50 of the Employment Rights Act 1996 states that employees who are school Governors must be allowed "reasonable" time off work by their employers to carry out their duties, including attending governing body meetings. The amount of time off should be agreed between the employee and employer.

Grounds for disqualification from Governorship:

A person is disqualified from appointment, election or holding office as a Governor if he/she:

1. Is under 18 years of age
2. Already holds one Governorship at the same school
3. Is bankrupt or disqualified under the Company Directors; Disqualification Act 1986 or has had an order made under Section 429(2)(b) of the Insolvency Act 1986
4. Has been removed from the office of charity trustee or trustee for a charity by the charity commissioners or high court on grounds of any misconduct or mismanagement, or under Section 7 of the Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Scotland) Act 1990 from being concerned in the management or control of any Board
5. Is included in the list of teachers or workers prohibited or restricted from working with children or young people
6. Is disqualified from being an independent school proprietor, teacher or employee
7. Has been sentenced to 3 months or more in prison (without the option of a fine) in the 5 years before becoming a Governor or since becoming a Governor
8. Has received a prison sentence of 2½ years or more in the 20 years before becoming a Governor
9. Has received a prison sentence of 5 years or more at any time
10. Has been fined for causing a disturbance on school premises during the 5 years prior to or since appointment
11. Already holds the position of clerk to the Governing Board
12. Refuses a request to apply for a criminal records check (Disclosure & Barring Service)

As well as the above, any Governor who, without the consent of that Governing Board, has failed to attend the full Governing Board meetings for a continuous period of six months (beginning with the date of a meeting), on expiry of that period, may be disqualified from continuing to hold office as a Governor of that school. Authority Governors who have been disqualified for missing meetings may not be re-appointed to the same category at that school for a year following their disqualification. If, however, the Governing Board has given their consent to a Governor's non-attendance at meetings that Governor may be permitted to remain in office.