



UPLANDS MANOR PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTION

SOME QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PROSPECTIVE PARENT GOVERNORS

What is the composition of the Governing Body?

There is a Governor appointed by Sandwell Local Authority, the Headteacher, 2 parent governors (incl. vacancy), a staff governor and four co-opted governors.

How much time will it take up?

There are usually 3 meetings per term, held on Tuesday mornings. Governors will be invited, at various times during the year, to visit the school in order to conduct monitoring visits with a member of the Senior Leadership Team. In order to enhance the strategic role of Governance, each Governor at Uplands Manor has a specific role linked to their skills and abilities.

Can I get help with child-minding costs?

Yes, if you need to employ a child minder for meetings, then you can claim some of the costs back from the school.

Can I get help to understand what happens at meetings?

Yes, the Chair will meet new governors before their first meeting to talk through the agenda. If you feel it would be helpful, we could provide you with another governor as a 'mentor' to help you through the first few meetings. The Governor induction training provided by Sandwell will help you to understand how governing bodies operate and you should try to attend the training.

Do I get paid for being a governor?

No. All school governors are unpaid volunteers.

What do governors actually do?

Governors are responsible for the strategic direction of the school: they make long term decisions about the progress and development of the school. Governors help to appoint the senior staff, they make decisions about the school's budget, they decide on policies for every aspect of the school and they set targets for pupil achievement and attendance. Governors ensure that the school provides the highest standard of education for every child.

Can I talk to parents or other people about what goes on in meetings?

You can talk about matters in a very general way, but you must not identify any individual members of staff or any child. As the governing body acts as a 'corporate body', you cannot talk about any differences of opinion during the meeting, you can only report the final decision of the governing body. Part of the agenda is strictly confidential (it covers discipline, exclusions and similar items) and you must not talk about **anything** discussed in that section. Governors are asked to agree to a Code of Conduct that will be explained at your first meeting.

What are the benefits of becoming a governor?

You will learn how the school manages its budget, personnel and buildings and how school policies are developed.

Are there any restrictions on becoming a governor?

Governors must be over 18 years of age, not be bankrupt, nor have served a long prison sentence or been disqualified from working with children. All governors are required to sign a declaration to this effect (Section 128) and a Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) check will be carried out.

If I enjoy being a governor here, can I become a governor of other schools?

Yes, you can be a member of another school governing body, but you cannot be a member of more than two governing bodies.