



Governor Recruitment

Norton sub Hamdon and West Chinnock Federation governing board are looking for new recruits to the governing board. While I suspect many of you have thought about being a governor and decided it is not for you, I would urge you to think again. Being a governor is a hugely rewarding experience. It allows you to “give something back” to your local community but also be a valuable part in ensuring the education of children in the local community, including your own children, is the best it can be. Below is some information regarding our governing board and what being a governor is like. I would ask you to read this and consider whether you can become a governor for Norton sub Hamdon and West Chinnock Federation.

What are your roles as a governor?

The 3 main roles as a governor are:

1. Making sure there is clarity in the vision, ethos and the strategic direction of the school
2. Holding the Headteachers to account for the educational performance of the school and the performance management of the staff
3. Making sure that the school spends its money effectively.

So, what do you actually do?

There are 2 full governors’ meetings per term lasting 2 hours per meeting, which you are required to attend. The agenda is set by the chair of governors and there is supporting information you will have to read prior to the meeting. The meetings allow the governing board to assess pupil progress, ensure the schools continue to advance in line with the school development plan as well as review and agree policies and guidance required for the school to work effectively within legal frameworks.

Governors will also be required to take on additional roles depending on their interests and expertise. These include being the lead governor for special educational needs (SEN), safeguarding, health and safety, etc. There are also the resources and personnel committees that are made up of governors and staff and regular (termly) monitoring visits that governors will do to check the school are implementing the goals set out in the school development plan.

Who makes up the governing board?

The number of governors for each school is different. At our schools we have a maximum number of 15 members on the governing board:

X2 Co Head teachers (acting as 1)
x1 Staff Governor
x3 Foundation Governors (Church)

x2 Parent Governors (1 from each school)
x1 Local authority Governor
x7 Co-opted Governors

The chair of governors can come from any of the above sources apart from the head teachers or staff governor role.

How many governors have we got at the moment?

We currently have 11 governors. It should be noted that it is completely normal to have vacancies on the governing board. This allows flexibility when someone would like to volunteer to be a governor. However, we have had a number of governors completing their term recently, which has led to a more formal drive for recruitment.

Who are we looking to recruit?

It is important to keep a balance on the governing board and our main focus is on improving the number of parents or carers, particularly at Norton sub Hamdon. Both our parent governors have recently finished their term as governors and so filling these posts is a priority. I am delighted that a parent has already been elected as parent governor for Norton Sub Hamdon and we are currently open for applications for the parent governor role at West Chinnock. There is room for more parents and carers to come forward from both schools as co-opted governors as well.

We are also looking for foundation governors from the parishes of or around Norton and West Chinnock. The diocese are involved in appointing foundation governors. The responsibilities of a foundation governor include the normal governor roles with an emphasis on ensuring the Christian ethos of the schools are maintained.

I'm interested, who can I speak to next?

It is important for you to have an opportunity to speak to a governor to answer any questions that you have. All the governors are approachable and happy to discuss the role in more detail. If you are interested in finding out more then please get in touch with the school or Heidi Knight, our clerk to the governors, on Hknight1@educ.somerset.gov.uk with your details and one of us will contact you.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. The schools are such an important part of our communities. While there is work to do as a governor, the rewards far outweigh the effort!

Best Wishes



Olly Donaldson

Chair of Governors