



# Southwood Infant School

## **Frequently asked Questions!**

Below are some questions that we are often asked about becoming a Governor. If you have a question that is not answered below, then please just get in touch either via the school office, or using the online contact form.

### **What do Governors do?**

The Governing Body have three key roles in the running of the school, which are;

- To oversee the budgets and finances
- To hold the leaders to account
- Ensuring there is clear vision and strategic development of the school

These three core functions are broken down into much smaller roles, which are delegated to different committees to fulfil. An example of overseeing the finances might be looking at current expenditure against projected numbers and income for the years ahead, and looking at where savings can be made.

### **What does being a Governor involve?**

The Governors fulfil their core roles through regular meetings, (Full Governing Body (FGB) and also in smaller committees), visits to the school and formal and informal conversations with key staff and sometimes pupils too – these conversations are particularly good fun! Every school has an improvement plan, and the Governing Body monitors the school's progress against this plan. If a point on the improvement plan was to 'improve Y1 writing', a Governor might meet with the English Lead to look at evidence in exercise books to support progress in this area.

### **How much time does it take?**

We try to take up as little of your time as possible. We understand that many people work full time and have other commitments. The larger the team, the easier it is to spread the workload! As a baseline, we would need your attendance at FGB meetings, which are held in the evenings (six per year, approximately two hours each) and also to sit on one of the other committees (either day or evening, three times per year).

### **What if I join and then find that it doesn't suit me?**

We understand that being a part of the Governing Body can seem quite daunting, and we don't want anyone to do anything that they don't feel comfortable doing. We would welcome prospective members joining us for a meeting to check out the process before committing. We would hope that our structured induction and support programme would alleviate any worries and enable new members to feel comfortable in asking for help. You are very welcome to join a meeting as a guest to see how the meetings are run and the processes involved.

**Excellence- Respect- Enjoyment**

### **How will I be supported?**

As previously mentioned, we have a full induction and support programme in place for new members. You wouldn't be expected to undertake any tasks or visits alone until you feel comfortable. It can take some time for this to happen, but someone will be by your side the entire time.

### **Do I need a background in education?**

No! Our current team already includes several people who have a background in education. A good Governing Body comprises of people who have a spectrum of different skill sets and backgrounds from finance to health and safety, human resources, plus many, many more. The more varied the team, the more varied our collective perspective is, which only strengthens us. Any profession boasts skills that would be useful in governance.

### **Ok, I'm interested! What do I need to do next?**

Great! You can either telephone the school office giving your name and contact information and I will give you a call for an informal chat about governance in general, and answer any questions you may have. (You will soon be able to register your interest via the school website, and we will let you know when this option is ready). Following this informal chat, you will need to fill out a short application form (for administrative purposes) and then we can get going!

### **What if I know someone that might like to become a governor?**

This is also great! Whilst we only have two vacancies on the team for parents of current Southwood pupils, we have other vacancies for people who aren't current parents, and would welcome their interest just as much! Please do pass on this information to anyone who you feel may be interested.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions at all, and we look forward to welcoming you to our wonderful team!