THE ROLE OF THE SCHOOL GOVERNOR AND GOVERNING BODIES

The role of the school governor is demanding but very rewarding and is a worthy way to give back to your local community. School governing bodies are responsible for working with the school to ensure that it delivers a good quality education for all of its pupils. The headteacher is responsible for day-to-day management of the school and together with the governing body, they set out the school's aims and policies.

Key roles of governors:

- To ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- To hold the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff
- To oversee the financial performance of the school and make sure its money is well spent

There are a number of other important duties, which include:

- Determining how the school's budget is spent
- The appointing and dismissing of staff
- Hearing appeals and grievances
- Forming policy on the school's curriculum and collective worship
- Setting standards for pupils' behaviour and discipline
- Making sure school buildings are welcoming and safe
- Setting and monitoring the school's aims and policies

What can governors expect from the school:

The governing body expects the school to:

- understand and respect its statutory role and purpose
- recognise the shared commitment to school improvement and securing the best outcomes for every child
- respect governors as volunteers who bring other skills, experiences and perspectives, and value their contribution
- work openly with the governing body and provide clear, concise and relevant information on which to base decisions
- enable all governors to become involved in the life of the school
- contribute to the induction, training and development of governors
- ensure that where educational jargon is unavoidable it is at least explained

The school expects the governing body to:

- respect the professional expertise of the headteacher and staff
- work openly in partnership with the headteacher and staff for the benefit of the school and its pupils
- demonstrate its commitment, collectively and individually
- act and take decisions that are in the best interests of the school and not those of self, individuals or groups
- support the school with parents and in the community
- recognise the need for both governor induction and ongoing training and development

Individually, governors will:

- enhance the work of the governing body to enable a strong focus on raising standards, so that every child achieves their potential
- demonstrate their commitment by getting to know the school and becoming involved in school life and activities
- take personal responsibility for their ongoing training and development
- prepare for meetings so they are well informed, having at minimum read all of the papers sent out with the agenda
- attend meetings (governing body/committees/working group) and play an active part
- support the school with parents and in the community
- recognise the corporate status of the governing body and the concept of collective responsibility
- respect confidentiality and the need to act with circumspection.

Each governor must sign and abide by the governing body's Code of Conduct which is provided to all governors each year.

DISCLOSURE AND BARRING SERVICE CHECKS

Governors are all required to undergo a Disclosure and Barring check on their appointment as a school governor and a form will be sent to you for you to complete (on appointment) so that this can be processed as quickly as possible.