

A Day in the Life of Chair of Governors

Lots of people wonder what Governors actually do, and is there a big difference being Chair of Governors.

Let's start with the role of Governors. We are there to ensure the school is managed in the best way possible, and to check we always get value for money. That's putting it in a nutshell.

Chair of Governors has added responsibilities. So, what do I do on a Governor day?

Well, every day I check my Governor email account for any post I may have, reply to relevant ones and then check my diary.

Today I have my 3-weekly meeting with our Headteacher to discuss a number of areas such as attainment data, Safeguarding, Staffing and pupil details. I am brought up to date with any vacancies we need to fill. We look at what training is available, who it's for and can we cover for staff to go on it, also can we afford it! We record our decisions and look back on them in the following meeting.

Before I go I may walk around school with the headteacher, checking areas and just general observations to see if anything needs picking up on.

I like to try and arrange my meeting occasionally to correspond with our Celebration Worship so I can see our pupils, hear what they have been doing and recognise their achievements.

We had our Governor meeting a couple of weeks ago. They are in the evening to accommodate our Governors who work. It's just something I have to enter in my diary well in advance to ensure I don't double book myself.

It's not always possible to have all Governor related work on the same day. Being organised in good time, and I try my best to be. Luckily, I have a great Headteacher who will send me reminders of upcoming events. Not being involved with school every day, can bring problems of remembering when and what time meetings are.

A role added to Chair is you are automatically involved with the Trust. They meet every term, so that's another thing to factor in your diary when updating. It's a role I take seriously alongside my Chair role, as I see them go hand in hand.

Although I have titled it "A day in the life" it is never a full day unless I am training, it could be a different part of a different day. Future Chairs need to be aware of the commitment they are giving, over and beyond chairing meetings.

It's not riveting or exciting, not front-page news, but so important. Some say it's a thankless job but I disagree. To see our pupils, grow in knowledge and stature, in a safe environment is all the thanks I need.

Got to go or I will be late for my meeting!!!

Margaret Hoole, Chair of Governors