



Tylers Green Middle School: The role of the Governing Board and Parent Governors

All maintained schools, like TGMS, rely on a group of talented and supportive volunteers to constitute their Governing Board (GB).

The school's GB is responsible for providing confident and strategic leadership, and creating robust accountability, oversight and assurance for the school's educational and financial performance. The board is passionate about education and committed to continuous school improvement to ensure the best possible outcomes for our pupils.

Ultimately being a governor is a rewarding experience. Our school is a small organisation so the GB can support and effect change and see the positive impact of that very quickly. Working with the staff group and pupils is energising, enlightening and fun.

The Role of Parent Governor

There are 14 governors on the TGMS GB. Three of these are nominated/elected parent governors. The role of parent governor is no different to other governors. It is included in the constitution to ensure that a parental perspective is brought to GB discussion and decision making.

To explain this further, a parent governor is not there to represent issues, or complaints from parents to the board. Rather, they are describing how governing board decisions might impact the school from a parent's perspective.

As a GB we review our skillset on a regular basis, and we are fortunate to have a broad spread of expertise and experience. The governors believe it is important that boards reflect the diversity of the school communities they serve. Diverse boards promote inclusive school environments and provide diverse role models for staff and young people.

The full GB meets 4 times a year in the evening. Not all work can be carried out at these meetings, as it would take far too long. A lot of activity is therefore delegated to committees. The TGMS committees, which meet once a term during the daytime, are:

- Teaching & Learning Committee
- Personnel, Pastoral and Admissions Committee
- Resources Committee
- Pay Review Committee (held once a year).

A governor will be asked to join one or more committees depending on requirements. In addition, governors carry out a specific role. This could be a subject focus, such as English, and would involve meeting with the subject lead in school once a term.

Substantial training resources are available for new governors to support their development in the role. Initially all new governors attend training on the principles of governance and the importance of safeguarding.

There is considerable scope to utilise, develop or refresh skills in a governance role. These could include; leadership, human resources, performance management, finance, communication, teamworking, project management, strategic analysis and planning.

To carry out a governance role effectively would require spending about 9 hours a term to cover preparing for and attending meetings. If you have more time available there are always additional tasks or projects that you can get involved with.