

Being a governor at The Bewdley School

Our Governing Body

- The Governing Body operates, collectively, in the best interests of pupils, rather than as a collection of individuals lobbying on behalf of their constituencies. The task of the governing body is:
 - to govern the school, focusing on the core functions of providing strategic leadership
 - holding the headteacher to account
 - making sure that the school's money is well spent.
 - This is a demanding task for which all governors need to have, **or develop**, relevant and appropriate skills.
- Equality of opportunity applies to all members of the school community i.e. learners, staff, governors, parents and community members. It is based on the core values and ethos as expressed in this school's Vision Statement.
- The school aims to meet the needs of all, taking account of gender, ethnicity, culture, religion, language, sexual orientation, age, ability, disability and social circumstances. In this school we meet the diverse needs of learners to ensure inclusion for all and that all learners are prepared for full participation in a diverse society.
- All Governors are subject to DBS checks which must be completed within 21 days of invitation and must sign up to the code of practice

Meetings

- The Governing Body meets twice a term at 6.00pm for a finance meeting followed by a full Governing Body meeting, which is normally completed within 2 hours. Papers are issued before the meeting, which Governors can access through Governor Zone, on the school's website. Governors are expected to attend or must offer apologies for reasons of absence.
- Additionally, there is a voluntary Governor day in school each term which gives an opportunity for a longer meeting when governors can focus on matters such as analysis of results, plans for the future, and meet staff and learners. These meetings last between a half and a full day.
- All Governors take responsibility for focusing on a particular area of the school's governance taking responsibility for links such as
 - Finance, Leadership, Safeguarding & LAC, Health and Safety, Infrastructure, Marketing, Pupil Premium, SEND, Sixth Form, Well-being (staff and students).
- Governors are encouraged to attend school events and visit the school during the day so they may be more fully aware of how the school is addressing issues identified for development.

Additional responsibilities

Governors may also be involved in appointments, exclusion hearings, appeals, sub committees set up for specific purposes.

Skills and Training

- New Governors must attend a Local authority Induction training which must be completed within 3 months of appointment.
- Governors then have ongoing training depending on need and mandatory requirements e.g. Safeguarding.
- Many training courses have an on-line version which Governors sometimes find more convenient and easier to fit in to their schedule.
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Support

- The governing body operates within a supportive atmosphere
- New Governors have a mentor who is an experienced governor who will help the new governor to understand their role and the activities of the Governing body
- Additionally, the clerk is always available for advice by email
- Governors may seek advice from other governors or speak to the Chair if they have any concerns