

ROLE DESCRIPTION

Role Title: Parent Governor

Employee Values

The post holder will be expected to operate in line with our employee values which are:

- Ambition without limit
- We break down barriers
- We turn our best into normal
- Every interaction counts
- We are a family

Overall Purpose of the Academy Council

The role of the Academy Council is to carry our Trust's vision, policies and priorities forward, provide internal assurance and, in addition, to develop the local community and employer links. The governors are expected to question, challenge and support the school leadership and feel comfortable that they know, and are able to discuss, the performance of the school.

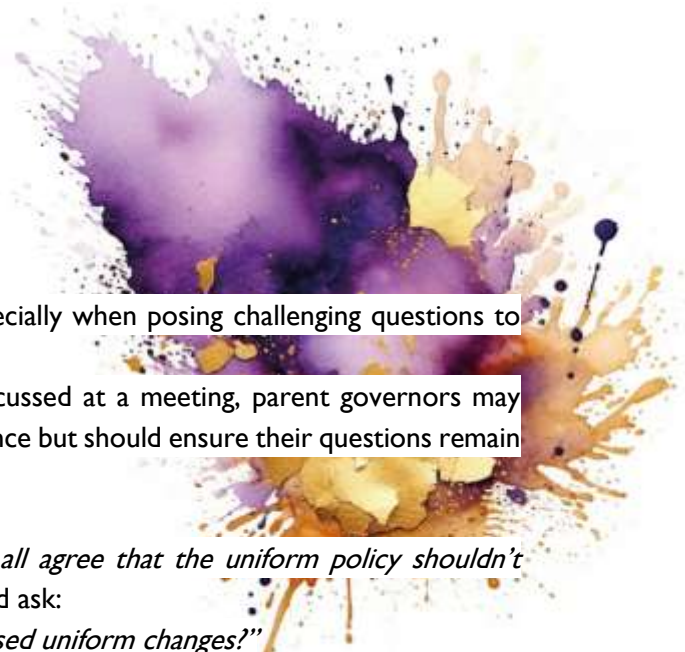
Role Purpose

Governors are responsible for overseeing the operational side of the school. They enable their school to run as effectively as possible, working alongside the Principal/Head of School/Head of Centre and senior leaders to support teachers and support staff to provide excellent education to students. They will always put students first in order to raise standards and transform lives.

Becoming a parent governor is a rewarding opportunity to give back to your local community and use your skills and experience to ensure that pupils get the best possible education.

Main Duties and Responsibilities

- The role of a parent governor is no different to any other governor.
- Parent governors offer a parental perspective to issues being discussed; however, they are **not expected to represent the parent body or act as a spokesperson.**
- Bringing a parent's perspective to the Academy Council is important but should not be confused with the Academy Council's overall responsibility to engage with parents as a collective.



Providing Effective Support and Challenge

- Parent governors need to remain impartial, especially when posing challenging questions to school leaders.

For example, if school uniforms are discussed at a meeting, parent governors may have opinions based on personal experience but should ensure their questions remain objective.

Rather than stating:
"I've spoken to other parents, and we all agree that the uniform policy shouldn't change". A parent governor might instead ask:
"Have parents been consulted on proposed uniform changes?"
"What opportunities are there to minimise the cost of this change to parents?"
- While all parents are concerned with their own child's best interests, governors must make decisions that are in the best interests of the whole school community.

For example, if data indicates that pupil progress is falling behind expectations in a specific year group, it is appropriate to raise this in Academy Council meetings.
Ask: *"What support is in place to ensure all pupils make good progress?"* Avoid asking: *"What are you going to do to support my child to catch up?"*
- It is important to keep Academy Council matters confidential. Parent governors should not share concerns away from the meeting or discuss with other parents.

Managing Complaints

Governors may be approached by parents wishing to raise a complaint. However, it is not the parent governor's role to attempt to resolve individual issues. Instead, they should direct parents to the school to ensure the correct procedure is followed and not make promises to investigate the issue.

Similarly, if parent governors have concerns relating to their own child, they should use the school communication channels available to all parents and follow the complaints procedure where appropriate. Parent governors should not attempt to bring individual cases to the Academy Council.

Dealing with Conflicts of Interest

Parent governors may need to declare an interest and remove themselves from a meeting where the outcome of a decision could **directly** affect them, their child or other children and families that they are closely connected to.