Different Governor Categories in Maintained Schools.

How are they appointed or elected?

First of all, the Instrument of government is the framework which sets out how many governors there are in each category and the different types of categories.

Parent Governors – elected by the parents of the school. When a vacancy arises, the school will arrange for an election from amongst the parents of the pupils on roll at the school.

Co-opted Governors – Appointed by the governing body

Authority Governors – nominated by the Local Authority and appointed by the school’s governing board

Staff Governors – elected from amongst the staff of the school

Headteachers – by virtue of their appointment

Foundation Governors – appointed by the local church diocese and other bodies listed on the school’s instrument of government

Applying to become an Authority Governor

Applications are considered by Officers in Children’s Services and applications are nominated to schools’ Governing Bodies for appointment.

The applicant has to demonstrate on the nomination form that they have the skills, experience and attributes to make full and effective contributions to the work of the governing body of the school. Authority governors must take note of the assessment criteria requirements as shown on the nomination form and must show that they are able to attend governor training sessions.

What is expected of an Authority Governor;

* to know the school: its needs, strengths and areas for development;
* attend meetings promptly, regularly and prepare by reading papers beforehand;
* proactively support the work of the governing body outside of full governing body
* meetings (committees and working groups)
* recognise that all governors have the same rights and responsibilities unless particular responsibilities are conferred on them by the full governing body;
* work as a member of a team at all times and be loyal to collective decisions made by the governing body, supporting them in public;
* speak, act and vote in the best interests of the pupils at the school having considered the views and advice of the Local Authority.
* act within the framework of the policies of the governing body and legal requirements;
* be sensitive to the pressures under which headteacher’s work.
* take responsibility for their own learning and development as a governor including undertaking training and development opportunities;
* to adhere to the governing body’s code of practice