**The role of the school governor and governing bodies:**

The [role of the school governor](https://www.essex.gov.uk/Education-Schools/Schools/becoming-a-school-governor/Documents/You%20can%20be%20a%20school%20gov.pdf) is demanding but very rewarding and is a worthy way to give back to your local community.  School governing bodies are responsible for working with the school to ensure that it delivers a good quality education for all of its pupils. The headteacher is responsible for day-to-day management of the school and together with the governing body, they set out the school's aims and policies.

Key roles of governors:

* To ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
* To hold the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff
* To oversee the financial performance of the school and make sure its money is well spent

 There are a number of other important duties, which include:

* Determining how the school's budget is spent
* The appointing and dismissing of staff
* Hearing appeals and grievances
* Forming policy on the school's curriculum and collective worship
* Setting standards for pupils' behaviour and discipline
* Making sure school buildings are welcoming and safe
* Setting and monitoring the school's aims and policies

**What can governors expect from the school:**

## The governing body expects the school to:

* understand and respect its statutory role and purpose
* recognise the shared commitment to school improvement and securing the best outcomes for every child
* respect governors as volunteers who bring other skills, experiences and perspectives, and value their contribution
* work openly with the governing body and provide clear, concise and relevant information on which to base decisions
* enable all governors to become involved in the life of the school
* contribute to the induction, training and development of governors
* ensure that where educational jargon is unavoidable it is at least explained

## The school expects the governing body to:

* respect the professional expertise of the headteacher and staff
* work openly in partnership with the headteacher and staff for the benefit of the school and its pupils
* demonstrate its commitment, collectively and individually
* act and take decisions that are in the best interests of the school and not those of self, individuals or groups
* support the school with parents and in the community
* recognise the need for both governor induction and ongoing training and development

## Individually, governors will:

* enhance the work of the governing body to enable a strong focus on raising standards, so that every child achieves their potential
* demonstrate their commitment by getting to know the school and becoming involved in school life and activities
* take personal responsibility for their ongoing training and development
* prepare for meetings so they are well informed, having at minimum read all of the papers sent out with the agenda
* attend meetings (governing body/committees/working group) and play an active part
* support the school with parents and in the community
* recognise the corporate status of the governing body and the concept of collective responsibility
* respect confidentiality and the need to act with circumspection.

Each governor must sign and abide by the governing body’s Code of Conduct which is provided to all governors each year.