



Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School
Church Close, Lower Beeding, Horsham, RH13 6NS
Tel: 01403 891263 Fax: 01403 891115

office@holytrinity-horsham.w-sussex.sch.uk
www.holytrinity-horsham.w-sussex.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Tracey Bishop B. Ed. (Hons) N.P.Q.H.

What does a School Governor do?



This is a question we are often asked and as a result I thought I would try and answer a few questions for you. My name is Stephanie Shaw and I took over as Chair of the School Governors at the start of the autumn term 2016. Prior to that I was the Vice-Chair and I joined the Governing body in 2012 as a Parent Governor - more on Parent governors later. So here a few frequently asked questions and my answers, I am sure there will be many more questions and I will be more than happy to try and answers those for you.

Why do schools need a Governing body?

The simple answer is to help schools fulfil their mission: *to provide the best possible education for their pupils.*

There are also some quite specific powers and duties. Here is a list of some of the most important areas in which governors have to be active, based on 'A Guide to the Law for School Governors':

- **Standards** - ensuring a strategic and systematic approach to promoting high standards of educational achievement.
- **Targets** - Setting appropriate targets for pupil achievement at Key Stage 2, 3 and 4.
- **Curriculum** - ensuring that the curriculum is balanced and broadly based and that the National Curriculum and religious education are taught.
- **Reporting results** - reporting on assessments and examination results.
- **Policies** - deciding how, in broad strategic terms, the school should be run.
- **Finance** - determining how to spend the budget allocated to the school.
- **Staffing** - deciding the number of staff, the pay policy and making decisions on staff pay.
- **Appointment** - appointing the head and deputy head teacher and other staff.
- **Discipline** - agreeing procedures for staff conduct and discipline.

- **Ofsted Inspection follow up** - drawing up an **action plan after inspection.**

They also carry out a number of other important duties, which include:

- The appointing and dismissing of staff
- Hearing appeals and grievances
- Forming policy on the school's curriculum and collective ethos worship
- Setting standards for pupils' behavior and discipline
- Making sure school buildings are welcoming and safe
- Setting and monitoring the school's aims and policies
- Act as critical friends to Head and staff.

What is the difference between the Governors and the PTA?

Most Schools have a Parent Teacher association. The PTA is a voluntary organisation where anyone can join at any time; unlike the Governing body whose members have to be elected. The PTA's role is to encourage closer links between home and school. They are best known for their essential fundraising work amongst other great work. Our PTA has generously provided support for the school playground development, the year 6 leavers buying their Leaver's Books, providing all the children with ice creams at the pantomime and entertainment at the Christmas parties, and a



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great many other odds and end requested by the teachers.

How often do the Governors meet?

At the start of each School year, the full Governing body meets to agree the School strategy, the purpose is to identify the school's goals and objectives for the year. In addition, the full governing body meets once a term to review progress against those objectives and to focus on more specific activity such as performance & Standards, resources and our values and behaviours as part of our Ethos group. Each of these groups has their own specific committee and they also meet once a term, usually before the full Governors meeting.

At Holy Trinity we have 3 sub committees.

Ethos – is chaired by Father Mark Betson and is responsible for the school's spiritual welfare and values. The Ethos committee was also responsible for working with the children to build the new peace garden.

Performance and Standards – is chaired by Sarah Raciti and this committee focuses on pupil performance and the school curriculum. The Performance and Standards committee was instrumental in setting up the pre and after-school wrap around care.

Resources – is chaired by Ken Eglinton. This committee focuses on the school's finances and staffing. The Resources committee was heavily involved in the new build project, the playground development and classroom updates.

In addition we meet to discuss pay and appraisals pupil discipline and staff dismissal should this be required.

Do you have to have any specific qualifications to be a school governor?

No, there is no formal qualification required. However, having some financial knowledge is helpful for the Resources committee. A commitment to value children's welfare and education is the primary purpose.

What are the different types of Governors?

There are four main types of Governors listed below:

Parent Governor – the parent or guardian of children attending the school. Once your child has left the school you will be expected to stand down at the end of your term of office as a parent governor.

Staff governors- elected by staff within the school.

Foundation governors- these are appointed rather than elected by the diocese.

Co-opted governors- Appointed by the governing body. They may represent the local community, local business or have the skills that the governing body require.

Can I approach one of the School Governors rather than speaking to the teaching staff?

Yes of course, that said, we would prefer for you to speak to the Head Teacher in the first instance and if your concern has not been addressed, please feel free to contact me or any of the other Governors listed below via the Clerk to the Governors at clerk@HTLB.school.



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Stephanie Shaw - Chair of School
Governors

Christine Hook - Vice- Chair

Rev Mark Betson – Foundation Governor

Lesley Hendy - Foundation Governor

Katie Bird – Parent Governor

Sarah Raciti – Parent Governor

Rochelle Sullivan – Staff Governor

Ken Eglinton – LA Governor