

## THE ROLE OF PARENT GOVERNORS

Parent governors are elected by the parent body to represent them on the governing body. They share the views and where, appropriate, the concerns of parents with the governing body and act as a conduit between parents and the governing body.

Parent governors are not delegates and are not obliged to get voting instructions on matters to be decided, nor to vote in accordance with the parent body's views.

It is important that parent governors can give a fair and accurate representation of parental opinion on matters of importance. They vote, however, according to their own conscience and with the well being of the school foremost in mind.

In all other respects, parent governors have the same role as every other governor, i.e. together with other members of the governing body, they

- are responsible for the strategic management of the school
- oversee the school's aims, values and ethos
- promote high standards of educational attainment
- set targets for pupil achievement
- ensure compliance with the national curriculum
- take general responsibility for the conduct of the school
- manage the school's budget, including deciding how many staff will work there and their pay
- participate in the appointment of the leadership group
- regulate school conduct and discipline.

Like other governors, parent governors do not have the power to take action on behalf of the governing body unless they have been asked to do so by the governing body.

Most governing bodies keep confidential items to a minimum. However, all governors need to bear in mind that indiscreet talk about what has been said at a governing body meeting can cause problems, and care needs to be taken when reporting back to the parent body on the outcome of meetings.

In general, just like all governors, parent governors should make sure that they never discuss individual children or adults outside the governing body if they have gained information about them as a result of being a governor.

Parent governors should be accessible to other parents and many governing bodies have arrangements in place ranging from parent governors' surgeries to notice boards and newsletters. Care must, however, be taken if they are approached by another parent with a complaint about the school, in which case the parent concerned should be referred to the school's complaints policy.