



## TYPES OF GOVERNOR AND ROUTES TO GOVERNORSHIP

<b>Authority Governors</b>	<p>The local authority <b>appoints</b> governors to the governing body according to the criteria it has established. There are Authority appointed governors on the governing bodies of all types of school.</p> <p><b>Who is not eligible?</b> Anyone who is eligible to be a staff governor at the school.</p>
<b>Parent Governors</b>	<p>The parents of every school <b>elect</b> parent governors. If the number of candidates for a parent governor election is lower than the number of available places, then the governing body can <b>appoint</b> a parent, subject to the regulations (School Governance (Constitution) Regulations, 2003 – or see <i>A Guide to the Law for School Governors</i>).</p> <p><b>Who is not eligible?</b> Elected members of the Local Authority (County Councillors). People who work at the school for more than 500 hours in a school year (= more than <math>\frac{1}{3}</math> full time equivalent) at the time of election/appointment.</p>
<b>Staff Governors</b>	<p>This category includes the headteacher (see below), teachers and non-teaching staff. With the exception of the headteacher, governors in this category are <b>elected</b> by their colleagues. If there are only <u>two</u> staff governor places on the governing body, then one is reserved for the headteacher and the other for a teacher, unless none of the teaching staff wishes to stand for office. If there are <u>three or more</u> staff governor places on the governing body, one is reserved for the headteacher, one for a member of the teaching staff, and a third place must be reserved for a member of the non-teaching staff of the school, unless none of them wishes to stand for office.</p> <p><b>Who is not eligible?</b> Volunteers are not (- but anyone who is <i>paid</i> to work at the school <i>is</i> eligible).</p>

<p><b>Headteacher</b></p>	<p>The headteacher of the school <b>is automatically</b> a member of the governing body, unless he/she <b>chooses not</b> to be. Even if they choose not to be a member, they have a right to attend all meetings, and a duty to prepare reports for the governing body. The headteacher's place on the governing body is reserved for them and cannot be taken by anyone else. The headteacher's term of office lasts for the duration of their time in post at the school.</p> <p><b>Who is not eligible?</b> Everyone except the headteacher!</p>
<p><b>Community Governors</b></p>	<p>In community, community special, voluntary controlled and foundation schools, the governing body <b>co-opts</b> members from the local community to serve as community governors. They usually live or work in the community served by the school or they are people committed to good governance and the success of the school. They can include members of a minor local authority or members of the local business community. Governing bodies often seek to co-opt governors who have specific skills from which the school might benefit.</p> <p><b>Who is not eligible?</b> Registered pupils at the school, elected members of the Local Authority (County Councillors) and people eligible to be a staff governor at the school.</p>
<p><b>Foundation Governors</b></p>	<p>Foundation governors are <b>appointed</b> by the school's founding body, church, trustees or other organisation named in the school's instrument of government. Community, community special and maintained nursery schools do not have foundation governors. The body or bodies that have the right to appoint foundation governors are specified in the school's instrument of government. Some foundation governors may hold the office <i>ex officio</i>, as the holder of an office specified in the instrument of government.</p> <p><b>Who is not eligible?</b> No specific restrictions, but they must be people who will preserve and develop the religious character of the school, if it has one, and they must ensure compliance with the trust deed, if there is one.</p>
<p><b>Partnership Governors</b></p>	<p>On foundation school governing bodies, partnership governors take the place of foundation governors in schools where there is no foundation or equivalent body. Partnership governor nominations are sought from parents of registered pupils. The governing body <b>appoints</b> partnership governors from among those nominated.</p> <p><b>Who is not eligible?</b> Parents, staff, pupils, elected members of the local authority (county councillors) and anyone employed by the local authority in connection with education functions cannot be partnership governors.</p>

<p><b>Sponsor Governors</b> (optional)</p>	<p>This is an <i>optional</i> category and not many schools currently have sponsor governors included in their instrument of government. Schools may have up to two sponsor governors. Where this category is included in the instrument of government, the governing body must seek nominations from the sponsor(s) named on the instrument; it then <b>appoints</b> the sponsor governor(s).</p> <p><b>Who is not eligible?</b> No specific restrictions, but they must either be nominated by sponsor organisations or be people who give substantial financial assistance to the school financially or in kind, or provide services to the school.</p>
<p><b>Associate members</b></p> <p>(Note: these are not governors and are also optional)</p>	<p>Governing bodies can benefit from the expertise and experience of people from outside their formal governor membership by <b>appointing</b> associate members to serve on one or more committees and to attend the full governing body. Associate members can be pupils, members of the school staff or people who want to contribute to issues related to their particular area of expertise. Associate members are not governors but they can be granted limited voting rights in committees of the governing body (for detail, see <i>A Guide to the Law for School Governors</i>)</p> <p><b>Who is not eligible?</b> No specific restrictions. But note that the same disqualifications apply to associate members, as apply to governors.</p>

### **Further Information and References**

Information about types of governor and procedures for their appointment or election can be found in *A Guide to the Law for School Governors*.

**Authority governors** are appointed by County Councillors. The administration to support Authority appointments is carried out by Cambridgeshire Governor Services. Please contact Sylvia White, Business Support Officer on 01223 715323 or email:

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