



# Tannery Drift First School

ROYSTON • HERTFORDSHIRE

## Background Information for potential School Governors

The main responsibility of a school's governing body is to promote high standards and make sure that children are attending a successful school which provides them with a good education and supports their well-being.

At Tannery Drift First School we have a dedicated and energetic board of governors, made up of a combination of parents, staff and members of the local community, who work closely with the school to help Mrs Greetham and her staff achieve their goals and who share in the school's vision of developing an ethos of enjoyment, achievement and respect.

The majority of governors are co-opted by the governing body, and are chosen based on their skills and experience – which often comes from fields outside of education. In addition, we have three elected posts – one staff governor and two parent governors.

## **What is the role of the School Governing Body?**

Governors set the strategic direction of the school by working together to, amongst other responsibilities, agree policies, set and review targets, review budgets and staffing, ensure parents and pupils are involved, consulted and informed as appropriate, and make information available to the community.

We have committees focused on Teaching and Learning, Resources and Finance, and in addition to regular meetings, visits and consultations, governors also use their skills to help the school in other areas, from community engagement to web design!

We expect governors to take an active role in:

- Promoting high standards of achievement
- Helping plan the school's long-term future
- Helping set the school's aims, values and ethos
- Budgetary allocation and control
- Appointing staff
- Confidentiality & diplomacy

The governing body is answerable to parents and the wider community.

## What skills are required? :

All of the following are needed by the governing body. We don't expect any one person to have experience of all of them!

Decision Making	Problem Solving	Strategic Planning
Team working	Special needs	Healthcare
Health and Safety	Finance	IT
Building Management	HR	Legal Knowledge

Links to local community groups (sports, drama etc.)

All school governors need to have a DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check carried out, which the school will arrange.

## Will I receive any training?

New governors usually attend a one-day induction course. As you settle into your role, there are many courses available to help you, depending on your specific responsibilities undertaken and your specific needs. Many of these are now available online.

## What is the time commitment?

On average, 6 - 8 hours per month during the school term time will allow you to attend the full governor body meetings, participate in one of the committees that support the governing body, and do the necessary preparatory reading.

Full governing body meetings are held five times a year, usually on a Wednesday evening at 7.30pm. Committees usually meet five times a year – days and exact timings can vary to suit the members of the committee. Currently the Teaching and Learning committee meets at 4pm on a Wednesday, Resources at 9.30am on a Tuesday and Finance at 9.30am on a Friday.

Governing body members are able to attend meetings remotely, via Microsoft Teams, if they are unable to attend in person.

We encourage all governors to take on a link role and to spend time in school meeting children and staff during a school day. Link visits are usually carried out once per year depending on the link role. Link roles may be for an area of the curriculum or more organisational, for example safeguarding or health and safety.

The standard 'Term of Office' is 4 years. Many governors serve multiple terms, but at the same time governors are volunteers, so if your circumstances change you can resign at any point.

Reasonable governor expenses, e.g., for childcare when undertaking governor business, can be reclaimed in line with our approved policy.

## What are the personal benefits of being a school governor?

Being a governor is an enormously challenging and rewarding opportunity. You can develop new skills, strengthen existing ones and use them to the benefit of the school community, in particular its most important members – our pupils.

We hope that you would be interested in joining us!

For more information, visit the National Governance Association: <https://www.nga.org.uk>, or contact the school office to arrange a meeting with Mrs Greetham and our Chair, Andrew Ford.