

Categories of Governor

A governor's term of office is normally four years from the date of appointment/election.

LEA Governors

In Hertfordshire, LEA governors are appointed by the Director of CSF following nomination by elected members of the county council (county councillors) or by schools. LEA governor appointments are the responsibility of the local authority. Members of staff are not eligible to be appointed as an LEA governor at the school where they work.

Foundation Governors

Foundation governors are appointed in voluntary aided schools by the church or a voluntary organisation.

Parent Governors

Parent governors are normally elected by parents of registered pupils at the school. Elections are by secret ballot. Other than elected county councillors or someone paid to work at the school for more than 500 hours a year, anyone who has parental responsibilities for a child on the roll of a school can participate in an election.

Where no parent has stood for election, a governing body must seek to appoint a parent of a child at the school to fill the vacancy. If it is unable to do so the governing body should first try to appoint someone who is the parent of a former pupil, and then anyone who has a child under or of compulsory school age.

Should the child of a parent governor leave the school during their term of office, they are entitled to serve his/her full term of office. A parent governor who subsequently becomes a member of staff does not have to resign, but will not be eligible to stand for election again when his/her current term of office finishes, if they are still on the staff at that point.

Staff Governors

All governing bodies must have at least two staff governors, the Headteacher and a teacher. If the governing body has three staff governor posts, the third is filled by a member of the support staff (which includes those who are not employed either by the LA or by the governing body, e.g. kitchen staff). Fourth and subsequent posts are not reserved and are open to all staff.

All staff paid to work at the school are entitled to vote in staff governor elections, regardless of whether it is a 'teacher' governor post, a 'support staff' post or an 'open to all' post. Elections are by secret ballot.

A staff governor must resign if they cease to be employed at the school.

Headteacher

The Headteacher is a staff governor unless s/he decides not to be, and the post is then reserved. Whether or not a governor, the Headteacher is still entitled to attend all meetings of the governing body and of its committees.

Associate Members

Non-governors may be appointed as associate members to serve on any of the governing body's committees. They may be given limited voting powers at committee meetings and have the right to attend (but not vote at) full governing body meetings.