

## The Role of the Parent Governor – Bristol Free School

Bristol Free School responsibility for its running and strategic direction. It is one of five secondary schools in southern England run by the Trust. Nonetheless, RET delegates significant decision making to the Local Governing Body (LGB) – Parent Governors serve on this Body.

Therefore, it is important to understand that, as a Parent Governor, you are elected by the parents and can voice what you understand to be their view in meetings. However, like all other Governors, your duty is to the interests of the School as a whole, not just those of the parents (and certainly not those just of your own child(ren)!).

In practical terms, you will need to attend seven Full Local Governing Body meetings a year.

Most Governing Body meetings take place at the School:

1. Full Local Governing Body meetings are scheduled for two hours, from 4:30pm on Thursday afternoons.

You will receive the agenda and other papers before all meetings which you will be expected to have read and understood when you attend.

In addition, there will be other commitments e.g. attending the Prize giving evening and playing your part in Governor monitoring – this might mean a visit to the School during the working day or working with a member of School staff at another time. Also, you may be asked to assist with interviews for prospective new staff.

Finally, all RET Governing bodies undergo regular training to improve their performance and keep them up-to-date. You will receive induction training if you are elected as a Governor.

In summary, being a (Parent) Governor makes its demands but can be hugely rewarding in terms of understanding what goes into providing the education which your child(ren) receive and in playing your part in the overall direction and development of the School. This is a committed and friendly Governing Body.

I hope very much you will consider standing for election to this post.

Elizabeth Bogle  
Clerk to the Governing Body

September 2023