

## What does the governing board do?

The role of a governing board is to provide strategic leadership and accountability in schools. It has three key functions:

- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent
- Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils
- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction

Governors set the aims and objectives for the school and set the policies and targets for achieving those aims and objectives. They monitor and evaluate the progress the school is making and act as a source of challenge and support to the head teacher. In action, this means:

- Appointing and performance reviewing the head teacher and senior leaders, including making decisions about pay
- Managing budgets and deciding how money is spent
- Engaging with pupils, staff, parents and the school community
- Sitting on panels and making decisions about things like pupil exclusions and staff disciplinary
- Addressing a range of education issues within the school including disadvantaged pupils, pupils with special needs, staff workload and teacher recruitment
- Looking at data and evidence to ask questions and have challenging conversations about the school

Governors at Abbots Farm Infant School must be prepared to adopt the Nolan principles of public life: selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership and we all sign up to a code of conduct advised by the National Governance Association.

Our governors are committed to their role and to young people; we are confident in having courageous conversations; curious with an enquiring mind; able to challenge the status quo to improve things; collaborative to build strong relationships; critical to improve their own work and that of the board; and creative in problem solving and being innovative.

The full governing board at Abbots Farm Infant School meets twice a term. Nominated governors, individually or collectively, carry out monitoring and reviews of both statutory requirements and progression against objectives of the School Improvement Plan throughout the academic year.

Full details of the role of a governor are available to download here:

[https://www.nga.org.uk/getattachment/Governance-Recruitment/Be-a-school-governor-or-trustee/Governor-role-description-2017-\(1\).pdf?lang=en-GB](https://www.nga.org.uk/getattachment/Governance-Recruitment/Be-a-school-governor-or-trustee/Governor-role-description-2017-(1).pdf?lang=en-GB)

If you are interested in joining the board of governors at Abbots Farm Infant School, please contact the clerk, Mrs Alison Garrett, at [Garratt.A@welearn365.com](mailto:Garratt.A@welearn365.com) to enquire about any vacancies.