

## Guidance on Terms of Office

- Governors are elected for the term of four years unless specified otherwise on the Instrument of Government, but they may resign at any time.
- Parent governors may continue to hold office until the end of their term of office even if their child leaves the school.
- If an elected governor decides to resign before their term of office is up the school must hold new elections.
- Any governor elected to take the place of another governor who has resigned early is elected for a full term of office.

## Parent Governor Fact Sheet

The governing board consists of parent governors, staff governor, the headteacher, co-opted governors, **foundation governors**, and LA governor. Our school has **two** parent governors. Parent governors have all the same powers and duties as other governors.

The governing board meets **three times per year, in the evening**. Every governor joins at least one of our committees. These are responsible for different aspects of the school such as **Resources** (including Finance, Premises, and Staffing) **and Curriculum Standards**. Committees meet four times a year in the evening. We also invite governors to come into school occasionally during the school day so they can understand how the school operates and see improvements for themselves.

To be eligible to stand for election as a parent governor you have to have parental responsibility for a pupil at the school. Having "parental responsibility" is not limited to biological parents, but will cover you if you are a step-parent, foster parent, grandparent bringing up the child, or permanent partner of the child's biological parent. A few people cannot be school governors; those who have been made bankrupt or who have been in prison for certain offences may not serve for some years afterwards. School staff are not eligible to stand as parent governors if they are employed for 500 hours or more per year. If you have any doubts as to your eligibility on any of these grounds, please contact the school office/headteacher.

A candidate for parent governor post must be a parent of a registered pupil at the time the election is held. However, parent governors do not have to resign if their children leave the school before their term of office has expired.

A candidate is a *representative* member of the parent body rather than a delegate.

- Parent governors do not have to try to represent the views of all parents.
- They should communicate with them about issues that arise, but only in so far as is reasonable i.e. not confidential matters.
- When decisions have to be made by the governing board, each parent governor is free to vote in accordance with his/her own views.

The [Governance handbook and competency framework](#) emphasises the importance of the skills, experience and personal attitudes brought by each governor. In addition, it is essential that all new governors attend the Induction Course provided by Governor Services for newly appointed governors so that you are fully aware of your role and contribute effectively to the work of the governing board team.

## Composition of the Governing Board

The governing board of Chesterton School comprises the following members:

<b>Number</b>	<b>Governor Type</b>	<b>How they are given their place</b>
1	LA (Local Authority) Governor	Nominated by County Councillors/LA, appointed by the governing board
2	Parent Governors	Elected by parents
1	Staff Governor	Elected by school staff
7	Foundation Governors	Appointed by the Diocese
1	Foundation Ex-officio.	Revd. Gareth Miller
1	Headteacher	Ex-officio: by virtue of the position they hold