

# Categories of School Governors

2012 Constitution Regulations (for maintained schools constituted after 1 September 2012)

Bolton Governor Services Team

## Parent Governors

Parents and carers of registered pupils at a school are eligible to stand for election as a parent governor; however, they cannot if they also work for the school for more than 500 hours per year or are an elected member of the local authority. They are elected by other parents of pupils at the school. Parent governors may continue until their term of office ends, even if their child leaves the school. If not enough parents stand for election, parent governors may be appointed by the governing body using agreed procedure. Although elected by parents, parent governors do not represent parents and should only express their own views as a parent.

## Co-opted Governors

Co-opted governors are appointed by the governing body. A co-opted governor is a person who, in the opinion of the governing body, has the skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school. Staff are eligible to be appointed as co-opted governors; however, when counted with the staff governor and head teacher, they must not exceed one third of the total membership of the governing body.

## Foundation Governors

Foundation governors are appointed in foundation, voluntary controlled or voluntary aided schools to represent the interest of the church, religious authority or voluntary trust which established the school. They have a responsibility to ensure that the school is run in accordance with the beliefs of the organisation.

## Local Authority Governors

Governing bodies are expected to liaise with the local authority to identify the eligibility criteria for their local authority governor. The nomination will be made by the local authority using this criteria, the governing body is then expected to agree the appointment at a full governing body meeting. Potential applicants may submit an application which is sent to the Local Authority Appointments Panel for consideration. If a person is eligible to be a staff governor at the school then they may not be appointed as a Local Authority governor.

## Staff Governors

Staff governors are selected by election by the staff employed to work at the school or who have a contract of employment with the school. If they leave the employment of the school they cannot remain on the governing body. Both teaching and support staff are eligible to stand for the position.

## Head Teacher

The head teacher is a governor by virtue of their office. The head teacher is not obliged to be a governor but most usually choose to do so. If they choose not to become a governor the vacancy will remain.

## Partnership Governors

The Governing Body may appoint partnership governors who possess the “*skills needed to contribute to effective governance and success of the school*”. If the school has a religious character partnership governors may be nominated by the Diocese or appropriate religious body. Where the school has no religious character nominations by the parents of registered pupils at the school and such others in the community that the Governing Body deems appropriate. (community organisations and other local bodies) Parents of registered pupils, staff, elected members of the local authority and local authority children’s services staff are not eligible for nomination or appointment as partnership governors.

## Associate Members

Associate members are not governors and are not eligible to vote at full governing body meetings. Associate members can be appointed by the governing body to attend committee meetings or full governing body meetings. They are appointed because of their particular skills or experience. Associate members may be given voting rights at committee meetings by the governing body.