



LLANISHEN HIGH SCHOOL



The Role of a School Governor

There are around 22,000 school governors in Wales. They give their time, skills and expertise on a voluntary basis, to help their school provide children with the best possible education.

Like all governing bodies, the Governing Body of Llanishen High School has a strategic responsibility for the school which it fulfils by

- ✦ setting the school's aims and objectives
- ✦ agreeing policies, targets and priorities for achieving these objectives
- ✦ monitoring and evaluation to see whether the objectives are achieved.
- ✦ setting the school budget, monitoring spending and appointing senior staff.

There are 20 members of the Governing Body - 5 appointed by Cardiff County Council, 6 elected by parents, 2 elected by teachers, 1 elected by non-teaching staff, 5 from the local community appointed by the governing body and the headteacher. Appointments last for 4 years, with the exception of that of the headteacher which is on-going.

The full Governing Body meets every half term. The deputy head, the head girl and the head boy attend meetings as observers.

Much of the work of the Governing Body is carried out by its Committees. There are 3 main committees:

- ✦ Finance and Resources which deals with the school's budget, monitoring of spending, health and safety, buildings and sustainability issues
- ✦ Teaching, Curriculum and Outcomes which is concerned with the quality of teaching, learning and assessment, the setting of a broad and balanced curriculum and promoting high standards of pupil achievement
- ✦ School Community and Well-being which deals with pupil wellbeing, safeguarding, attendance, behaviour and inclusion; and staff wellbeing.

Every governor is assigned to one of these Committees. Each Committee is responsible for reviewing the school's policies and procedures relating to its area of work.

The Governing Body also has a Governance Committee which plans and monitors the work of the governing body.

The Governing Body has Panels dealing with pupil discipline and exclusions; the headteacher's performance review; staff redundancy, dispute resolution and discipline; staff pay and performance; and complaints. These meet as required. All governors other than those employed by the school are assigned to one or more of these panels.

On appointment new governors attend an induction session at the school and continue to be supported by experienced members of the governing body as they become familiar with their new role. The learning process also includes mandatory induction training and understanding data training. This training and a range of other training is provided by Cardiff Governor Services and the Central South Consortium.

All governors, apart from those employed by the school, are linked with a subject area, year group or specific aspect of school life. Governors are asked to visit or meet their school links at least once a term. The link arrangements

- ✦ enable governors to get into school and see how things are going
- ✦ enable governors to engage with middle leaders, staff and pupils
- ✦ support staff in the drive for improved pupil outcomes as set out in the school development plan
- ✦ inform and contribute to the governing body's monitoring role
- ✦ enable governors to report back to the governing body and champion issues in governing body meetings
- ✦ help the governing body to make better informed decisions.

Governors play an active role as members of panels for all new appointments, including internal appointments to posts of responsibility.

Governor Commitment

Being a school governor is rewarding but it does require a significant commitment of time and energy.

The rewards include

- ✦ being able to make an important contribution to education by supporting the school community, its staff and pupils and helping to raise standards
- ✦ experiencing new and challenging opportunities
- ✦ developing existing skills and learning new ones
- ✦ meeting and working with new people and being part of a team with shared objectives
- ✦ learning about the education system.

By accepting appointment Governors agree

- ✦ to involve themselves actively in the work of the governing body and accept a fair share of the responsibilities including service on Committees and Panels and link roles
- ✦ to regularly attend meetings of the full Governing Body and Committees and serve on Panels when required
- ✦ to get to know the school well and take opportunities to visit and become involved in school activities
- ✦ to undertake mandatory induction and understanding data training and to take up other training opportunities to develop their skills and keep them up to date
- ✦ to take collective responsibility for decisions taken by the governing body, even those decisions which the governor does not personally agree with
- ✦ to maintain confidentiality when this is required.

Further information on the Governing Body is given in the Governors' Annual Report to Parents which is on the school website; or information can be obtained from the Clerk to the Governing Body, Mrs Alison Williams, email clerktogovernors@llanishen.cardiff.sch.uk