



OUR GOVERNING BODY AND THE ROLE OF PARENT GOVERNORS

The Eliot Bank and Gordonbrock Schools Federation Governing Body provide strategic leadership and accountability in both schools.

Its main functions are to:

- To provide a strategic overview that ensures the pupils learn most effectively and achieve the highest standards.
- Act as a “critical friend” of the school by providing the Executive Head, Head of Schools and staff with support, advice and information and monitor and evaluate to school’s effectiveness and promote the interests of the school and pupils.
- To ensure accountability. We are accountable to parents, pupils, the community, the Local Authority and Ofsted.
- It is also responsible for many important decisions in the running of the school.

These include:

- Appointing the Executive Head, Heads of School, and Deputy Headteachers. Governors are also involved in the appointment of teaching staff as appropriate.
- Agreeing the aims of the school curriculum and ensuring the national curriculum is implemented.
- Determining how the school’s budget is to be used each year.
- Dealing with official complaints and exclusions.

Our Governing Body includes:

- 1 governor nominated by the local authority;
- The Executive Head teacher;
- 1 elected staff governor;
- 2 elected parent governors; and
- 12 co-opted governors

The staff governor is elected by the staff and normally serves for 4 years.

The parent governors are elected to serve the Governing Body by parents of each school and normally serve for 4 years.

The co-opted governors are invited onto the Governing Body, by the Governing Body, to add areas of expertise and to represent the local community.

Appointment, committee membership, attendance, and the Register of Business interests are available in the ‘Statutory Documents’ section on our website.

Our parent governors are elected by the parent body to represent them on the governing body. They share the views and where, appropriate, the concerns of parents with the governing body and act as a conduit between parents and the governing body.

Parent governors are not delegates and are not obliged to get voting instructions on matters to be decided, nor to vote in accordance with the parent body’s views.

It is important that parent governors can give a fair and accurate representation of parental opinion on matters of importance. They vote, however, according to their own conscience and with the wellbeing of both schools foremost in mind.

In all other respects, parent governors have the same role as every other governor, i.e. together with other members of the governing body, they

- are responsible for the strategic management of the school
- oversee the school's aims, values and ethos
- promote high standards of educational attainment
- set targets for pupil achievement
- ensure compliance with the national curriculum
- take general responsibility for the conduct of the school
- manage the school's budget, including deciding how many staff will work there and their pay
- participate in the appointment of the leadership group
- regulate school conduct and discipline.

Like other governors, parent governors do not have the power to take action on behalf of the governing body unless they have been asked to do so by the governing body.

Most governing bodies keep confidential items to a minimum. However, all governors need to bear in mind that indiscreet talk about what has been said at a governing body meeting can cause problems, and care needs to be taken when reporting back to the parent body on the outcome of meetings.

In general, just like all governors, parent governors should make sure that they never discuss individual children or adults outside the governing body if they have gained information about them as a result of being a governor.

Parent governors should be accessible to other parents and many governing bodies have arrangements in place ranging from parent governors' surgeries to notice boards and newsletters. Care must, however, be taken if they are approached by another parent with a complaint about the school, in which case the parent concerned should be referred to the school's complaints policy.

Here is a statement by our current parent governor, Katie Knowles:

'I have been a parent governor at Eliot Bank and Gordonbrock since September 2016. It's been really interesting to see the inner workings of the school and has given me a much better understanding of the way the schools deliver our children's education. I also feel I have been able to give something back to the school as a 'critical friend'. We have termly meetings and reports to read in advance, but it is by no means overwhelming and you can take on as much or as little extra responsibility as works for you, in the form of link governor duties or different committees.'