

Governor Support &
Liaison Services



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Becoming a School Governor in Rhondda Cynon Taf



STRONG HERITAGE | STRONG FUTURE
RHONDDA CYNON TAF
TREFTADAETH GADARN | DYFODOL SICR

The Personal Benefits of becoming a School Governor

Governors can really make a difference in improving standards throughout the school. Being a governor is an enormously challenging and rewarding opportunity. The personal benefits can be summarised as:

- A sense of satisfaction through knowing pupils will benefit from your efforts;
- The opportunity to develop new skills and to strengthen existing ones;
- The opportunity to work with people from a variety of social, cultural and religious backgrounds;
- The opportunity to gain understanding in key areas such as finance, personnel and strategic planning;
- The opportunity to gain awareness of the education system as a whole.

Through solving problems ranging from finance to site management, human resources to marketing, pupil welfare to curriculum development, every governor is guaranteed to broaden their skills and knowledge in some way, and this can be enhanced through training offered by the Local Authority.

Who Can Be a Governor?

Anybody over 18, with a few exceptions. These are listed on the relevant nomination forms.

You don't need to have had any previous experience or knowledge. Common sense, a genuine interest in education and commitment are the most that we are looking for.

What are the Different Categories of Governors?

Community Governors are appointed by the Governing Body to represent the community. They should live or work in the community served by the school or be committed to the good government and success of the school.

Local Authority (LA) Governors are appointed by the Local Authority.

Parents Governors are voted on to the Governing Body by other parents and are usually parents of children who attend the school.

Teacher & Staff Governors are elected by the relevant staff within the school.

Foundation Governors are appointed by the organisation that set up the school to represent their interests.

Minor Authority: In some areas where Minor Authorities exist an additional representative serves on the Governing Body

Consortium Member of Secondary School & Further Education - a serving governor may be a member of the above.

(The Government of Maintained Schools (Wales) Regulations 2005 will apply)

How Does a Governing Body Work?

A termly full Governing Body meeting is held, at the school which conducts its business making use of relevant papers, guidance and advice from the Headteacher and LA. Additional Committee meetings are held as and when required.

All relevant paperwork is forwarded is forwarded one week before the date of each meeting. The dates and times of meeting are agreed in advance.

Governors work as a team, no Governor has individual power or responsibility.

How much time will I need to give?

The appointment is for 4 years*. You would be expected to attend three Governing Body meetings per year, one each term. You will also have the opportunity to participate in committees or working groups to consider specific issues, in accordance with the agreed Committee structure of the school.

*Parent Governors in Nursery Schools are only elected/appointed for 2 years

What about time off from work?

Many employers encourage their staff to become a school governor and allow reasonable time off to fulfil these duties, including training. They realise that the skills gained through being a school governor are transferable to the workplace.

What help will I receive?

The vast majority of schools within Rhondda Cynon Taf purchase the Governor Support Service Level Agreement, which provides a comprehensive advice, support and clerking service to Governing Bodies. This ensures the attendance of a Senior Officer at Governing Body meetings to advise and support on all aspects of governance.

The Local Authority has a Governor Training & Development Coordinator who organises an extensive termly programme of training to meet the needs of governors and Governing Bodies. Newly appointed governors are encouraged to attend Foundation Training courses within their first year of appointment, these courses are free of charge.

Governors can also expect to receive written support materials published by the Welsh Assembly Government, Governors Wales and the Local Authority as and when issued.

Help is also provided by the Headteacher, staff, fellow governors and in many schools the nominated Mentor Governor.

What do I do next?

The Governor Support & Liaison Team will be able to advise you on all matters relating to becoming a governor including information on current vacancies in your area.

Contact a member of the Governor Support Team:

Governor Support,
Ty Trevithick, Abercynon,
Mountain Ash, CF45 4UQ

Telephone: 01443 744000

Fax: 01443 744201

E-mail: [governor.support
@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:governor.support@rctcbc.gov.uk)

Other Useful Websites & Contacts

Welsh Assembly Government for Wales

Web: new.wales.gov.uk

Tel: 0845 0103300

Governors Wales

Web: www.governorswales.org.uk

Tel: 0845 60 20 100