

# Would You Make A Good School Governor?

**All over the county, school governors are helping headteachers and staff in Cambridgeshire ensure our children get the best from their time in school.**

Schools are keen to attract people in the community to become governors; people who can bring energy, experience and fresh ideas to the role of organising and managing a school. Governors need no formal qualifications or particular skills, but they do need to have time to dedicate to their role, to make good decisions and to make sure their decisions are followed up. Could you meet this challenge?

**Yes?** Why not become a school governor? Schools come in many shapes and forms - nursery, primary, secondary and special and so do school governors. In order to decide how to become a governor, interested individuals will need to understand what sort of governor they want to be and the appointment processes involved.

## **Parent Governors**

All schools have a number of places reserved for parents of pupils at the school. Parents will receive a letter when a vacancy arises inviting nominations. Where there are more parents wishing to serve as governors than vacancies, a simple election is held. If there are fewer parents than vacancies, parents can be elected unopposed.

Governing bodies can appoint parents where vacancies remain unfilled following an election. In these circumstances anyone with a child between the ages of 5 - 16 is eligible. In order to be considered for a parent governor vacancy, you should approach your child's school.

## **Foundation Governors**

If the school is supported by a foundation, which is normally related to a religious denomination, then some of its governors are appointed by that foundation. In the case of a voluntary aided school, the majority of governors are foundation governors. If you already belong to the foundation in question, or if its members know you, it is possible that you could be invited to become one of its representatives.

## **LEA Appointed Governors**

Each school's governing body has a number of governors who are appointed by the Local Education Authority (LEA). Nominations to fill LEA governor vacancies can be made by the school or the local County Councillor for the area. If you are interested in becoming an LEA governor, you should therefore contact either the local county councillor or individual school. The councillor, headteacher or a governor will be able to talk to you about becoming a governor and possibly suggest you for nomination.

Our aim is to increase the number of committed and dedicated school governors in Cambridgeshire. Remember, a school's governing body should reflect the local community served by the school and as such everyone has something to offer schools.

*If you would like further information or support, please contact Sylvia White, Governor Service Administrator in Cambridgeshire's Governor Services team who will provide you with more information.*

**If you would like more information please contact the Governor Support Service on 01223 717918.**