



Providing a life-enhancing education that develops the character, talents and potential of every child

ACHIEVEMENT ~ DIVERSITY ~ RESPECT

Headteacher: Ms Jo Butler

## Cotham School needs more Parent Governors and Governors

*“Parent Governors are the heart and soul of the Governing Body with a crucial job to do -making schools better places for children and families. There are challenges, but you will overcome them<sup>1</sup>”.*

**The Governing Body is responsible for the strategic leadership of the school. It works in partnership with the Head Teacher and Senior Leadership Team In order to secure the best possible outcomes for all the children and young people in the school.**

*We encourage applications from all members of our community, regardless of background, gender, ethnicity, disability or age (as long as you're over 18).*

### The Governing Body's strategic functions are:

1. Setting the school's vision and strategic direction.
2. Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school, its pupils and staff.
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure money is well spent.

### The role of Governor is to:

- **Provide a strategic view** - help to set and maintain the broad framework within which the Headteacher and the staff should run the school;
- **Act as a critical friend** - provide the Head teacher with support and offer advice and information but also to provide some challenge. The Governing Body is there to monitor and evaluate the school's effectiveness and Governors should therefore be prepared to ask challenging questions;
- **Ensure accountability** - the Head and staff report to the governing body on the school's performance. In turn the Governing Body is accountable to all stakeholders on the school's overall performance, including financial management.

<sup>1</sup> Joan Sallis, journalist and author on educational matters and school governance.



## There are five Committees and six Link Governors

Committees	Link governors
Learning and Well-Being	Quality of Education KS3 Quality of Education KS4 Behaviour, Attitudes and Personal Development KS3 and 4 CEIAG / Careers
Finance, Property and General Purposes	Health and Safety
Personnel and Training	
North Bristol Post 16 Steering Group	Quality of Education KS5
Strategy (made up of the Chairs of the other committees)	

### WHY BECOME A GOVERNOR?

**You'll get to see things from the school's perspective and see how the school is managed. You'll gain an in-depth understanding of how decisions are made and the pressures on school leaders, while playing an integral part in deciding what happens for the good of all children at the school.**

Being involved in school governance will allow you to develop your skills, both personally and professionally in the following areas:

- Strategic planning
- Experience on a board; chairing meetings
- Holding senior leaders to account
- Finance, and maintaining oversight of multi-million pound budgets
- Human resources and performance management
- Project management
- Marketing
- Communication and teamwork
- Decision-making

### How Much Time Do Governors give?

- A Governor's term of office is usually for four years, but as you are a volunteer you can resign at any time.
- The average time spent on being Governor is around 6-8 hours a month during term time, although this varies from month to month, depending on meeting schedules and ad hoc requirements.
- All Governors should try to attend all Full Governing Body meetings (as per the agreed calendar, usually four per year), and at least one committee meeting (as per the agreed calendar, approx. three per year for each, six for the Finance and Learning & Wellbeing Committees). Governors can be members of as many committees as they wish to, and can commit to. All meetings are on set days of the week to ensure continuity and availability.
- Governors may need to meet for specific issues between committee meetings.
- Governors are actively encouraged to visit the school to monitor and observe practice, to meet staff and to become familiar with daily events. Governors are welcome, by invitation, to attend



school performances, events and some staff training. Events are listed on the GovernorHub calendar.

- There is an expectation that Governors will attend at least introductory training, and further training as appropriate.
- We recognise that not all Governors can visit school during the day due to work commitments. However, wherever possible it is hoped that Governors will take part in some organised visits to the school.

**If you care about improving children's educational achievement and outcomes and want to make a valuable contribution to the school; if you are willing to learn, listen and ask questions then you would be an ideal governor. There is lots of relevant training available, so you don't need any particular experience, just enthusiasm, commitment and energy! Come and join us!**

For more information contact the Governance Professional Leanne Sowersby - [sowersbly@cotham.bristol.sch.uk](mailto:sowersbly@cotham.bristol.sch.uk)

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