Cambridgeshire County Council

Would you make a good Parent Governor?

If you can answer YES to these questions, why not find out more about the role of a parent governor?

The governing body acts collectively and the first loyalty of every governor must be to the school. Governors support the staff and headteacher of their school but will also act as a 'critical friend'. The role is strategic not operational. The head and staff manage the day to day running of the school.

Parent governors are elected by parents of children at the school. Although they are there to represent parents' views, they are not delegates, and other parents cannot mandate them on how they should vote, or what they should say in governing body meetings. However, they should listen to the views of parents to inform their input to governing body meetings and should also find ways to report back to parents from the governing body.

Sometimes parent governors find they are approached by parents with individual concerns. In this case, it would not be appropriate to take the issue to the governing body and they should encourage the parents to take the matter up with their child's class teacher or the head (although it may be appropriate to offer support, if the parent concerned lacked confidence).

Do you have a child at the school?

Can you spare some time?

Would you be prepared to attend an Induction Course to find out more about your role?

Are you enthusiastic about your school and the education of the children?

Governing bodies meet at least once a term usually in the evening. The meeting may last about 2½ hours. Most governors become members of committees and these committees would again probably meet once or twice a term. Ask your head or chair of governors to tell you more about your particular governing body and the commitment involved.

If you would like more information please contact the School Governance Team on 01223 715321.