

**Do you want to give something back to your community and make a real difference to children? – If yes, then please read:**

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Two exciting opportunities have arisen for Co-Opted Governors to join the Governing Board at St Blaise Church of England Primary School. This is a very rewarding voluntary role, which offers the chance to use your existing skills and experiences to have a positive impact on the children in our school. The role also offers a great way, for those who may be interested in becoming a governor in the future, to learn more about governance.

**About us:**

We are a small, friendly, rural primary school for 4 to 11 year olds (currently 65 pupils), located in Milton Heights. However, with much house-building planned for the area, we are an expanding school. This means an increase in our school roll, staffing and premises.

We are delighted that in November 2014 Ofsted judged us to be a good school. The children said that ‘they would change absolutely nothing about the school’. We have worked extremely hard as a school community to achieve this judgement. We will now strive to become an outstanding school by *‘achieving together’*. As a church school we support the spiritual development of individuals, our Christian values underpin all that we do.

For further information about being A co-opted Governor please visit [governor page](#) or contact the chair of Governors – Kevin Moyes by e-mailing [kprm1982@hotmail.com](mailto:kprm1982@hotmail.com)

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## What is a School Governor?

A governor is a volunteer who gives their time to oversee the long term development of the school. The three main areas a governor is involved in are:

- 1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;**
- 2. Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff; and**
- 3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.**

Being a governor is an incredibly valuable experience, it is a unique opportunity to give something back to the community and further develop your own skills and experiences which could also benefit your own professional development and career progression..

All Governors are expected to:

- Support the aims of your school
- Visit and get to know your school
- Work in partnership with the Headteacher, senior leadership team and other governors to raise standards and improve outcomes for all children
- Prepare for meetings by reading papers beforehand
- Take responsibility for your own learning and development as a governor including attending training
- Attend full governing body and relevant committee meetings promptly, regularly, and for the full time
- Read briefings and newsletters for governors
- Be loyal to the decisions made by the governing body
- Respect the confidentiality of governing body affairs and to sign a legally binding confidentiality agreement.
- Declare an interest and withdraw from any meeting where you, a partner or close relative or associate stands to gain, or where you are so close to a matter discussed it is difficult to be impartial.
- Have regard to the broader responsibilities as a governor of a public institution in regard to promoting accountability for the actions and performance of the governing body

## Can I be a School Governor?

- You must be aged 18 and over.
- You must be living in the UK.
- You must be committed to the role and able to dedicate enough time (see below) to being an active member of the governing body.
- You must **not** be an elected member of the County Council.
- You should meet the relevant statutory eligibility criteria for school governors as set out in the Regulations and agree to DBS checks as required.
- You will have: an interest in all the children's futures, a desire to make a difference, a willingness to accept responsibility, an ability to work in a team, ask questions, listen and learn

**The Skills we are seeking to Recruit** *(it is not expected that all Governors will have these/all of these) but where we have more than one candidate for a role we will select based the skills required.*

- Finance
- Project Management
- Communications/Marketing
- Legal (especially in an educational setting)
- School admission

## How much time will it take?

The average time commitment is 10-15 hours per term (6 terms per year). This includes one full governing body meeting (all governors attend) and one committee meeting (only members of the committee attend typically 3-5) All governors are expected to join at least one committee - either: Performance (Focus on learning and teaching) or Resources (Focuses on Finance, Health and Safety and Premises) The time commitment above includes time needed for background reading to prepare for meetings, school monitoring visits etc.

School governors are like magistrates or members of a jury and therefore have a right to reasonable time off work for their public duties (this may be unpaid). Check with your Human Resources Department for your company's policy on this.

## **How Long Does A Governor Role Last?**

School governors have a minimum term of office of four years. However, as a volunteer you can resign at any time if your circumstances change.

## **Will I be offered any Training and Support?**

All new governors will undergo a full induction process which will be overseen by a designated Governor Mentor (as per our Governor Induction Policy) This will include the completion of a skills Audit and the development of a tailored training plan for the individual governor and the role(s) they are taking.

## **What is the Legal Responsibility of a Governor?**

Maintained school governing bodies are corporate bodies that are legally responsible for the conduct of the school. Because of this, individual governors are generally protected from personal liability because of the governing body's decisions and actions. Provided they act honestly, reasonably and in good faith, any liability will fall on the governing body even if it exceeds its powers, rather than on individual members. All Governors will be covered by a liability Insurance.

## **How can I Apply?**

To apply please send a letter of introduction stating why you would like to be a governor at St Blaise C.E Primary School and what you will bring to the role. Please send this by e-mail to the Chair of Governors - Kevin Moyes: [kprm1982@hotmail.com](mailto:kprm1982@hotmail.com)

## **How Can I find Further Information?**

If you would like further information or would like to discuss the role further please contact the Chair of Governors using the e-mail address above.

You can also visit [the governance section of the school website](#) for further information on the work of governors and to view the DfE Governor Handbook:

## **How Long do I have to apply?**

The closing date for applications will be **31<sup>st</sup> October 2017**