

Make a difference

be a governor



Swalecliffe Community
Primary School





Chris Cornell
Chair of Governors

Swalecliffe Community Primary School is an amazing three-form entry school of approximately 550 children nestled on the coast in Whitstable. As a school we are passionate about our **child first, pupil second philosophy** and making sure school is a place where children are **cared for and cared about**.

Rated as good by OFSTED in 2024 we have an experienced governing body looking for new recruits to help with our future planning. For me personally, being a governor is a great way to have an impact on your community by supporting the lives of children within it.

As a governor you're be expected to help steer the school, shape its vision and challenge staff to deliver on the targets they set themselves. It's a time-efficient way in which you can use your professional skills to have maximum impact and school will provide you with all the training and support you need.

To find our more about our school visit our [website](#) or read our [new Prospectus](#). If you think you can help, email us for your an informal chat at clerk@swalecliffe.kent.sch.uk

Yours

Chris Cornell

What do you need to be a governor?

A good governor is passionate about supporting the school but doesn't have to be a parent here. They needn't have a background in education – our governing body includes a wide range of people with experience of teaching, governance, business, finance and risk management. Attitude is what matters most. We want to nurture a diversity of skills, background and life experience so training and support are provided to all.

We believe having a range of lived experience improves the quality of our questioning and challenge, making our school a better place for our children to learn. As such we aspire to have a governing body which represents a range of different ages, sexualities, disabilities and other protected characteristics.

I am a primary school teacher and literacy specialist who visit schools all over Kent and East Sussex, but rarely in my own community. I joined as a Governor to play a small part and help enable the school to continue to be the best it can be'.

Bonnie Amos
Governor



How it works

Governors meet as a full body each term and work with the Headteacher to review the school's policies, evaluate its performance and monitor the expenditure of the school's budget. We appoint senior staff and set the School Development Plan.

Our governing body is organised into two committees focussed on Quality of Education and Resources. You will be expected to attend one of these committees and one governing body meeting a term - a total of six meetings a year.



All meetings are held in the early morning (8.30am - 10.30am) to limit the impact on work and a full list of dates is provided at the beginning of the academic year. Good employers will understand the benefit this volunteering has and be flexible and supportive. You will, at your convenience, arrange school visits to evaluate and monitor the effectiveness of priorities or projects you have responsibility for.

Governors sit for a period of four years and all governors will be expected to have a full DBS check and social media screening. We are currently looking for governors interested in joining either of our committees.

For more information on what governors do check out

www.governorsforschools.org.uk



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My daughter is thriving at Swalecliffe.

I hope as a Governor I can play a small part in this and help enable the school to continue to be the best it can be.

Jo Beck
Governor



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‘It truly is a privilege to work alongside people so committed to improving the lives of our children.

I’d recommend becoming a governor to anyone’.

Mel Alderman
Former Governor



Governor: Role Description

Purpose



Governors at Swalecliffe work together to:

- ensure there is **clarity of vision**, ethos and direction
- **hold executive leaders to account** for the performance of pupils and performance management of staff.
- oversee the **financial performance** of the organisation and make sure money is well spent.

Governors must ensure school complies with all legal and statutory requirements.

Strategic responsibilities

Governors work closely with senior leadership. The executive headteacher is responsible for day-to-day management whereas the governing body is strategic. This means governors are responsible for:

- determining the **mission, values and vision** for the school
- deciding the principles that guide school policy and **agreeing policy changes**
- working with senior leaders to **develop a strategy and workplan** (the School Development Plan)
- ensuring that parents, pupils, staff and the community are involved, consulted and informed
- ensuring a **broad and balanced curriculum** is in place
- setting the **budget and ensuring it is managed** effectively



- **agreeing the schools staffing structure** and keeping it under review
- ensuring **robust risk management procedures** are in place and that risk control measures are appropriate and effective

Monitoring & Evaluation

Governors must monitor the priorities that has been set and ensure progress has been made. They do this by:

- **measuring the schools progress** toward its strategic objectives – visiting the school to monitor implementation
- ensuring the required **policies and procedures are in place** and being adhered to
- **evaluating data** and feedback provided by school leaders and external agencies
- **asking questions** of school leaders to hold them to account

Panels and committees

When required governors are expected to serve on panels and committees to:

- appoint the headteacher and other senior leaders
- appraise the headteacher and make pay recommendations
- hear staff grievances and disciplinary matters
- review decisions to exclude pupils
- deal with formal complaints

Becoming a governor provides a fantastic opportunity to join a vibrant community and attend events to our children's success as you wish.

Governors will receive out of pocket expenses incurred as a result of fulfilling their role.

