

## Have you ever considered becoming a School Governor?

My name is Ian Game, the Chair of Governors for the ASPIRE Federation and we are currently looking to recruit new Governors for this academic year, and I hope it may help spark interest to explain our role.

'Who would be a Governor of a school?'

There are great pleasures in governorship through supporting, encouraging and overseeing the effective education of pupils - it's all extremely rewarding.

'Eyes on, hands off' that is what we do. We are strategic not operational, we watch, we observe, we notice, and we challenge to get the best for our pupils.

People always ask: What do School Governors do?
What makes a good School Governor?
What are School Governors responsible for?

The role may sound daunting, but Governors play a vital role, and most people enjoy their time as a Governor, as well as appreciating the sense of duty and opportunity to show loyalty and support for their local rural schools.

School Governors bring a wide variety of experience and knowledge from all different walks of life, all contributing to the successful running of the ASPIRE Federation, we are a very proactive, enthusiastic, friendly and committed team.

There is no skill set for an ideal Governor. We are a diverse group with a wide variety of skills and backgrounds. What we all have is a passion for children's education.

As long as you are over 18 years of age, anyone applying who has the: enthusiasm, necessary basic skills and a willingness to learn, get involved and contribute to the success of the Federation would be welcome to apply.

Governors set the ethos of the schools within the Federation and drive for continuous improvement; through challenge and support, and they also oversee the financial performance and ensure money is well spent.

The Governing Board has a range of duties and powers, and a general responsibility for all the four individual schools within the Federation, with a view to promoting high standards of educational achievement.

Please be aware, as a Governor you will need time for involvement with school monitoring visits, and for completing reports to go back to the Board Meetings.

The Board meets six times a year usually in the evening on a Tuesday, from 18.30 until 20.30 hours and we aim never to run over 21.00 hours!

The term of office is usually four years, and during this time you would be expected to attend and contribute thoughts and ideas to the Governing Board's meetings.

There is a legal requirement for all Governors to be DBS checked before starting in their role as a Governor.

The meetings are currently run remotely and we try to meet at least once a year in person for some in house training – refreshments will be provided.

Training is provided, you will need to attend an initial New Governor training course and at least three additional training sessions each academic year.

Please note: It is essential that Governors endeavor to attend all Full Governor Board Meetings held throughout the academic year.

If you are interested or know someone who may be interested in becoming a School Governor and wish to explore the role further please contact me either via any of the school offices or directly by email <a href="mailto:igame@aspire-kent.org.uk">igame@aspire-kent.org.uk</a>

I look forward to hearing from you.

Chair of Governors

The ASPIRE Federation

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(Kingswood, Leeds and Broomfield CE Primary, Platts Heath

and Ulcombe CE Primary Schools)