

NORTHLEAZE COFE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Could you be a governor?

About our school

Northleaze is ambitious in its aims for our pupils and is delighted to play a central role in the community it serves. We currently hold a “Good” Ofsted rating and we are working on the elements of our provision that will take us in the direction of “Outstanding” at our next inspection. We were awarded “Outstanding” at our last SIAMS inspection. We have a close connection to our local parish church, All Saints, and have an active and engaged parent body.

Northleaze is part of the [Lighthouse Schools Partnership](#) (LSP) Multi-academy Trust, having converted to academy status in February 2018.

Please click this link for more information about [Northleaze School](#)

What does a governing body do?

Our local governing body (LGB) is responsible for:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school
2. Holding the school leaders to account for the educational and financial performance of the school
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure money is well spent

The LGB is passionate about education and committed to continuous school improvement to ensure the best possible outcomes for our pupils.

Who can be a governor?

Contrary to popular thought, governors need not be experts in the field of education, nor a parent, nor connected to the school in some way. What they do need is an interest in the school and in the welfare of its pupils, together with the time and willingness to get involved. The skills you have can be very useful to the LGB.

Are you:

- Interested in being part of a team?
- Keen to get involved in helping the next generation to thrive?
- Enthusiastic about extending your skill set both professionally and inter-personally?
- Eager to engage with a system we have all benefited from?

Governors need "soft skills": the ability to be able to build relationships with a range of people, to be able to work as part of a team, to be able to question, and to make connections between different types of information. All governors are expected to be able to read budget reports and data on school standards. (Training is provided.)

Our current vacancies

Our governing body is made up of parent governors, foundation governors, staff governors and co-opted (sometimes referred to as community) governors. We are extremely fortunate to have engaged, highly

skilled governors, but we are **looking to recruit two parent governors to fill vacancies we will have in April 2023**. We encourage applications from all parents/carers at Northleaze, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, marital or civil partner status, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation (the protected characteristics).

The LGB is keen to hear from any candidates who have the time and willingness to get involved in our school community.

You do not need prior experience – governors receive training

Applicants do not need to have prior experience of governance, as training will be provided. New governors receive an Induction programme and training. Continuous advice is available through the National Governance Association, The Key and from the professional Clerk to governors, who supports us. Further training throughout the year is encouraged, either at face to face training sessions provided by the Lighthouse Schools Partnership, or other approved providers, or via flexible online modules and webinars.

What we require of governors:

Our Local Governing Body (LGB) has certain expectations of governors, which currently are:

- to attend and contribute to termly meetings of the LGB
- when required, to sit on any committee or working party and attend all associated meetings
- to monitor a subject/statutory link area within the school, eg Maths, English, Special Educational Needs, Early Years, Safeguarding, and meet with the relevant staff leader a minimum of three times per year, reporting on each visit to the LGB
- to visit the school formally for monitoring purposes as directed by the LGB
- to visit the school informally on occasion (with agreement of the Headteacher)
- to commit to attend training courses
- to comply with the expectations set out in our Code of Conduct

LGB meetings usually take place in the evening and last approximately two hours. Meetings take place on site at Northleaze School; however, we have the ability to conduct meetings remotely where this is necessary.

Governance usually requires about 8-10 hours per month (term time only) and employees can ask their employer for "reasonable time off" to carry out their duties.

Northleaze has a term of office for its governors of four years. Many people choose to serve multiple terms. However, as a volunteer, you can resign before your term is finished if your circumstances change. Governance is a voluntary role and therefore it is not paid. Some expenses may be paid.

Being a governor benefits you

Experience tells us that our governors not only make a difference to the school, but also gain much personal and professional satisfaction from the role. School governance allows you to develop your skills, both personally and professionally. Governing can provide you with experience of the following skills and experience for your CV:

- Strategic planning
- Experience on a board

- Holding senior leaders to account
- Finance, and maintaining oversight of potentially multi-million pound budgets
- Human resources and performance management
- Project management
- Marketing
- Communication and teamwork
- Decision making

Applying is straightforward

If you'd like to become a parent governor, please:

- Complete the [online application form](#)*, including
- A short personal statement (of up to 250 words) about why you want to be a governor, and summarising your skills and experience from work and other responsible roles
- Submit the form, including your statement, by 6.00 pm on **Monday 6th March 2023**

*If you would like to apply on paper, please ask the School Office Team for the form.

If only one application per vacancy is received, those applicants will become the parent governors. If there is more than one applicant per vacancy, the vacancy will be filled by a ballot of all parents and carers. The applicants' personal statements will be published to support this vote.

If you have any questions, please email our Chair of Governors Rowena.davin@northleazeschool.co.uk who will be happy to discuss them with you.

22 February 2023