



Living the Olympic  
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Silver Award



## Northbourne CE (A) Primary School

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### Parent Governors: An Introduction

Because we are a Church school, the majority of our governing body is appointed by a combination of the St Peter's Church Parochial Church Committee and the Diocese of Oxford. Currently Mr Jon Driscoll, Ms Shona Allen, Mrs Anita Smith, Mrs Sarah Green and Mr Andrew Vivian hold these positions as 'foundation' governors.

There is a requirement that at least one of the foundation governors is a parent of a child at the school; Mr Driscoll & Mrs Smith are current parents. There is one vacancy for a foundation governor.

Ms Becky Davies is our local authority governor and Mrs Strange is our staff appointed governor. Reverend Hannah Reynolds is an ex-officio member of the governing body as is the Headteacher, Mr Paul Shaughnessy. There are also two parent-governor positions one of which is held by Mrs Gemma Woods and the other is vacant.

#### What do governors do?

The first thing to make clear is that the Headteacher runs the school on a day to day basis. The Head and the staff are professionals; the governors are not, nor are they expected to be. Anything concerning the ordinary running of the school should be addressed to class teachers or the Headteacher.

But governors do have a lot of responsibility and the relationship with the Head can only work effectively if they are prepared to invest time in the role and attend regular training courses.

- The governors are expected to work with the Head to promote the improvement and monitor the performance of the school.
- Together with the Headteacher, governors set the future direction for the school and decide how the budget should be spent.
- Governing bodies make decisions collectively on matters such as performance targets, school policies, and the school's development plan.
- Governors monitor the impact of policies and the use of the school budget. They hear appeals from pupils and staff and consider complaints.
- Governors provide the Headteacher with support and advice, drawing on their knowledge and experience. They ask searching questions and respect the Headteacher's position as the professional leader of the school.

All governing bodies operate on the basis of 'collective responsibility'. This means that once a decision has been agreed all of the governors share responsibility for it. This applies to parent governors in exactly the same way as the others; parent governors are not 'parent representatives' but full, active members of the governing body.

**In practice, our governors are expected to attend all, or at least most, of the 6 full governing body meetings (which are usually held at 5pm) and be a member of a sub-committee (which either meet in school hours or at 5pm).** Other roles can be taken on when a governor has more experience.

Governors are not paid although they can claim back basic travel expenses for attending training courses and the like.