

MANCHESTER
1824

The University of Manchester

**Interested
in
education?**

**Got
skills
to share?**

**Want to
get involved
in your local
community?**

**Want to
be part of
a staff
network?**

**MAKING A
DIFFERENCE**

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER
SCHOOL GOVERNOR INITIATIVE

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SCHOOL GOVERNOR INITIATIVE

School governors play a crucial role in raising educational standards. The University's School Governor Initiative (UMSGI) aims to contribute to the leadership and improvement of state schools by engaging our staff and alumni in this voluntary role.

The School Governors initiative is one the University's social responsibility signature programmes.

www.socialresponsibility.manchester.ac.uk/signature-programmes



By becoming a school governor you will be contributing to the fastest growing school governor volunteer pool of any UK employer.

The School Governor Initiative encourages and supports staff and alumni to become school governors by:

- Working with our partner organisations to place staff and alumni into governor roles.
- Providing an internal university network to help staff develop as governors and share best practice.

Eligibility

- Be aged 18 or over.
- No requirement to be a parent or have direct experience of the education system.
- Be willing to make a commitment to the role and have enthusiasm and passion for improving school success.
- Certain skills and knowledge are desirable but these differ dependent on the school.

The governor role

- To support and challenge the head teacher to ensure accountability and recognise good performance.
- To provide strategic direction to help set the school's aims and objectives and monitor progress.
- To make executive decisions regarding budgets and the appointment of head-teachers.

Why Volunteer?

In a recent survey (2017), 85% of staff questioned said that they had gained new skills through being a school governor.

- Aid personal and professional development.
- Build skills and self-confidence.
- Meet new colleagues through our network events.
- Make an important contribution to the success of a local school/college.

Support from the University

- Support is offered locally through workshops, network events, training, an annual conference, newsletters and other forms of e-communication and peer support.
- The University will provide reasonable amounts of paid time off during normal working hours (in addition to annual leave) where necessary. Staff cannot claim time off in lieu for school governor duties performed outside of normal working hours.

Commitment

- Being a governor is normally a 4 year term and the average time commitment is 10-15 hours per term. This includes meetings, background reading and school visits.

How to get involved

Staff can register their interest in 2 ways;

- **Governors for Schools** is a free service for volunteers, schools and employers. Visit www.governorsforschools.org.uk to register your interest online
- **Inspiring Governance** connects volunteers interested in becoming governors with schools and colleges nationwide via their online system. Visit www.inspiringgovernance.org to find out more.

For enquiries about UMSGI and the support offered by the University, please visit: www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/umsgi

University contact: Alison Gregory alison.gregory@manchester.ac.uk



"I sit on the governing body of a local Manchester primary school and contribute significantly towards school budget planning and spending, curriculum setting and pupil attainment. Over the course of the academic year I have visited the school on a number of occasions to meet with members of staff and pupils

to better understand the schools future priorities for supporting its students and overall ethos.

The University's School Governor Initiative has provided me with the invaluable opportunity to network with experienced School Governor's to share best practice and expertise. As a result of attending Governor Networks and CPD training, I now feel better equipped to support and assist the staff and pupils at my school."

Amy Barnett
Executive Officer
Governor at Webster Primary School



I am a co-opted school governor at Ashgate Specialist Support Primary School in Manchester and am a member of the teaching and learning committee and governor responsible for the Right-Respecting-School (RRS) UNICEF initiative.

Ashgate has approximately 90 pupils across 13 classes with diverse spectrums of autism and/or more severe and challenging forms of sensory or motor disabilities.

The teamwork is a class act at Ashgate and I certainly have adapted and used their style in my daily activities at The University of Manchester. I am able to share some of my transferable skills and experiences in management of large organisations with the team such as finance management, educational measures and risk assessments.

I have really enjoyed the past three years and if my small contribution could make a difference in delivering better education or help our pupils gain a degree of independence in their lives in future, it would be a great output to a really positive and pleasant experience."

Dr Samaneh (Ella) Maysami
Project Manager MPMI
Governor at Ashgate Specialist Support School



"I've been a local authority school governor for nearly a year and it has certainly been a positive experience. I contribute to; disciplinary procedures, curriculum setting, equality & diversity and health & safety. UMSGI has provided some excellent training, network support and the opportunity to share

good practice. Within a short period, I have already broadened my knowledge and I am increasingly contributing to my school. The additional experiences as a governor are often helpful in my University work."

Peter Crowe
Faculty Head of Technical Services
Governor at St Peter's RC High School



"I was appointed as a school governor in March 2016. I had been looking for a volunteering opportunity that would allow me to utilise my existing skills and experience to make a difference but also to find something that would offer challenge and the ability to develop new skills. I contribute at a strategic level, with careers

education and guidance, work related learning and higher education links. I'm also developing new found skills in areas such as data analysis and resource management. It can be a challenging role too, such as having to ask difficult questions and sitting on the permanent exclusion panel, a necessary but difficult duty to undertake.

The advice and support of my fellow University governors who are part of the UMSGI network has also been invaluable. I was the first in my department to take on a school governor role but have now been joined by two other colleagues who have been placed with local schools."

Caroline Everson
Careers Consultant
Governor at Manchester Creative and Media Academy

