

The Role of Chair of Governors

Dr Brendon Jones

Chair of Governors

St Paul's C of E Primary School, Withington

Background

- **Chair of Governors Mauldeth Road Primary School – 1999-2004**
- **Chair of Premises Committee Romiley Primary School – 2006-7**
- **Chair of Resources Committee St Paul's C of E Primary School 2012 - to date**
- **Chair of Governors St Paul's C of E Primary School 2013 - to date**

Chair of Governors

5 Key Roles

- **Leading Effective Governance**
- **Building the team**
- **Relationship with the Head Teacher**
- **Improving the School**
- **Leading the Business**

Leading Effective Governance

- **Giving the Governing Body a clear lead and direction**
- **Ensuring Governors work together as an effective team**
- **Ensuring Governors understand their accountability**
- **Ensuring Governors recognise the part the Governing Body plays in strategic leadership of the school 'critical friend' to the Head Teacher**
- **Ensuring Governors are committed to and working towards driving school improvement.**

Building The Team

- **Attracting Governors with the necessary skills – reconstitution of Governing Bodies offers and opportunity around this**
- **Delegating tasks within the Governing Body to share workload and ensure that individual members contribute from their skills, knowledge and experience**
- **Succession planning**

Relationship with the Head Teacher

- **‘Critical Friend’ – offering support, challenge and encouragement**
- **Regular meetings and being at the end of a telephone**
- **Ensuring the Head Teacher’s Performance Management is rigorous and robust**
- **Supportive and challenging but not running day-to-day operations**

Improving the School

- **Ensuring school improvement is the focus of all policy and strategy**
- **Ensuring Governor monitoring reflects school improvement priorities**
- **Knowing the sources of information that Governors require e.g. RAISE on-line, SATs, lesson observations, school development plan, Ofsted reports, Head Teacher reports to Governing Body and school visits by Governors to allow effective questioning**
- **Ofsted role**

Leading the Business

- **Ensuring that statutory requirements and regulations are met**
- **Ensuring with the school provides value for money in its use of resources – Schools Financial Value Statement**
- **Ensuring Governing Body business is conducted efficiently and effectively**
- **Close relationship with the Clerk Of Governors – timetable of meetings to ensure the areas above are addressed**

First Among Equals

- **The Chair sets the culture of the Governing Body but is ‘First Among Equals’**
- **No individual power – the Governing Body is a corporate entity and the power and authority rests with the Governing Body as a whole**
- **Chair’s action in an emergency but this should be reported to the whole Governing Body as soon as possible**

Time Commitment

- **Effective time management crucial – all Governors are volunteers and the Chair needs to plan time to undertake Chair's duties e.g. regular meetings with the Head**
- **Chair's role should not take up more than 20 days a year – about half a day for each week of term-time**
- **Set priorities in conjunction with the Head Teacher and Governors and focus on these**

More Information

More information on the role of Chair of Governors can be found at the following websites:

<http://thegovernor.org.uk/freedownloads/takingthechair/leading-governors.pdf>

www.nationalcollege.org.uk/chairsofgovernors

Questions?