



*Volunteer  
your skills.  
Support  
education.*

**Become a School  
Governor with SGOSS**

**SGOSS**   
Governors for Schools

**School  
Governance  
is the  
most important  
voluntary  
role in  
education.**



Volunteering as a school governor is a great way to make a huge contribution to a local school and be inspired by the impact of education. In addition to helping drive educational performance in your local community, there are opportunities for you to develop and enhance valuable skills which will benefit you in your personal and professional life.

# WHAT DOES THE ROLE INVOLVE?

Governor volunteers work alongside the school's senior leadership team to set targets, formulate school policy and plan for future development. Governors do not manage the day to day running of a school but they do set the framework which should ensure the school is running effectively. Ultimately, governor responsibilities can be split into **three core roles**:



## Setting strategic direction

The governing body must ensure that the school has a clear strategy for the future, including ambitious yet realistic targets for improvement, as well as measurable success criteria.

## Creating robust accountability

The governing body is responsible for ensuring the school's leadership is successful in implementing the agreed strategy, and in meeting its targets by offering an effective balance of support and challenge.

## Ensuring sound financial practice

The governing body must make sure the school's finances are used to achieve its vision in the most cost effective way and to maximise outcomes for pupils.



## WHY VOLUNTEER?

**“Being a school governor is an opportunity to help influence building and maintaining an environment that provides children with the best possible education they can get.”**

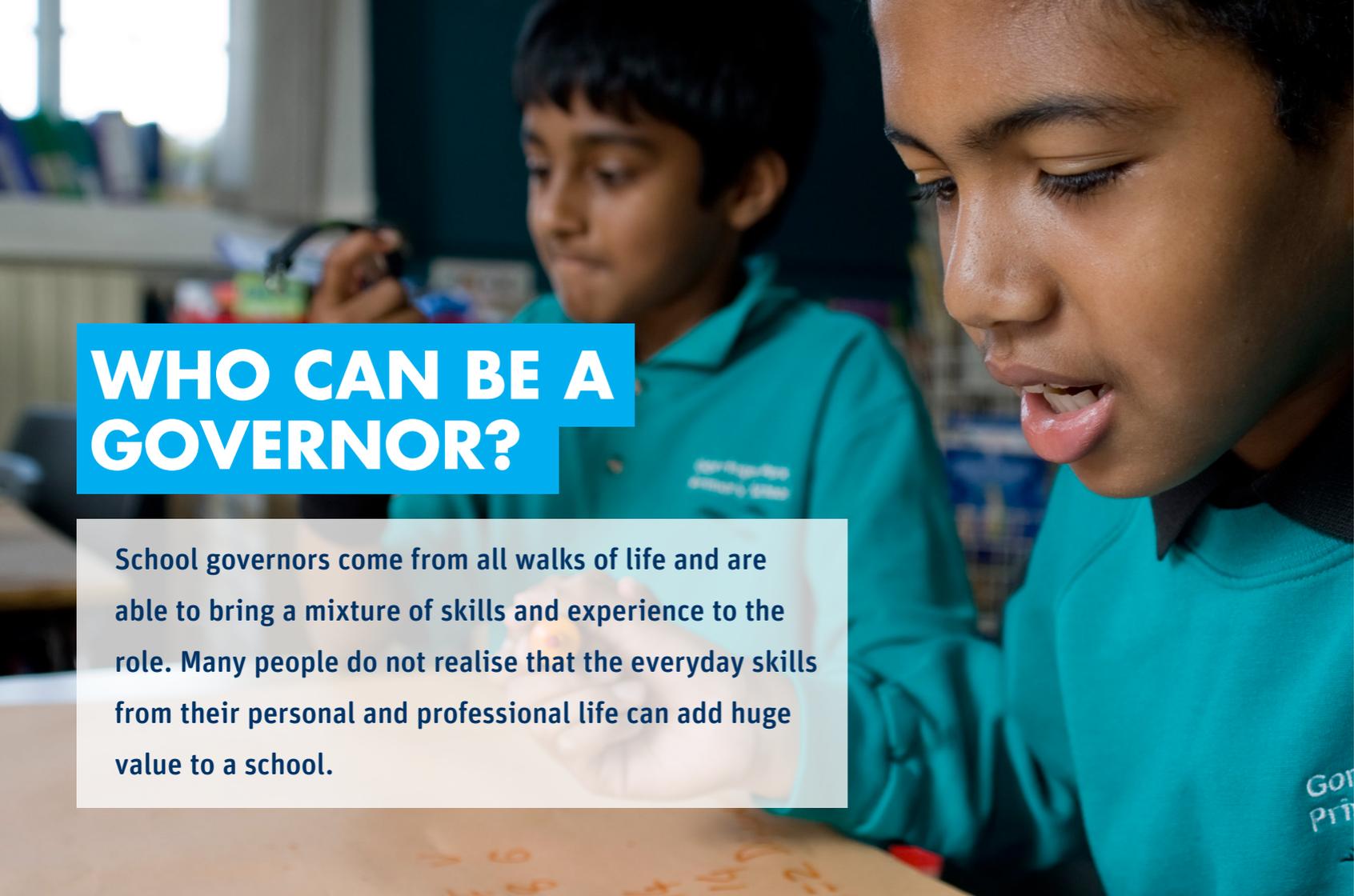
- Trisha Wood / School Governor / Swindon

**School governance is a unique volunteering opportunity.**

It's a chance to give back to your community, work as a team and make a positive impact on the education of children.

As a governor, you will gain insight into the education system and you will gain a set of key skills which can be re-invested back into your career.

You can expect to develop skills in budget control, project management, leadership and negotiation. It is also a chance for you to gain experience in staff recruitment and performance management.



# WHO CAN BE A GOVERNOR?

School governors come from all walks of life and are able to bring a mixture of skills and experience to the role. Many people do not realise that the everyday skills from their personal and professional life can add huge value to a school.

Anyone aged 18 or over and living in the UK can be a governor. You do not need to have children or be a parent of a child at the school.

You will need to be able to commit an average of 10-15 hours per term to the role.

## Do I need specific skills?

There are no specific skill requirements for the role. However schools do benefit, and are increasingly interested in volunteers from the Finance, Legal, Business, Marketing, HR and Construction sectors.

## If you...

Have an **interest in the education** and the future of young people.

Have a dedication to promoting **high standards** of attainment.

Have the ability to **work collaboratively** to meet the school's aims and objectives.

Have an interest in using your skills and experience to **offer opinions and solutions** to interesting topics and challenges.

**School governance is a great volunteering opportunity for you!**

# FAQs

## What are the different types of governor?

Governing bodies include representatives from the school's staff, the local authority, parents and members of the community. All governors have exactly the same role.

## How long is the term of office?

Four years. However, should your circumstances change, as a volunteer, you can resign at any time.

## Do I get time off?

School governors are like magistrates or members of a jury and therefore have the right to reasonable time off work for their public duties (this may be unpaid). Check with your HR department for your company's policy.

## What about academies?

Academies have a slightly different structure; speak to a member of our team if you would like to find out more.

## What is the legal position?

Responsibility for actions and decisions lies with the governing body as a whole and never with individual members. The governing body is required by law to be covered by an insurance policy.

## What are the time commitments?

The average time commitment is 10-15 hours per term. This includes meetings, background reading and school visits.

## Is there training available?

Training and support is available for new and existing governors and is free of charge. We recommend all new governors attend a governor induction programme.

## Where are the vacancies?

There are vacancies across England. When applying you can specify a geographic area or school in which you would like to volunteer. Our Area Managers will then work to match you with the right school.



Join a team of enthusiastic volunteers who are working to drive school improvement.

# BECOMING A GOVERNOR

The application process

1

Complete the SGOSS application form online at: [SGOSS.ORG.UK](https://SGOSS.ORG.UK)

2

SGOSS will then work to match you with the perfect school.

3

If you and the school are both happy, your term as a governor will begin!

[BECOMEAGOVERNOR.COM](https://BECOMEAGOVERNOR.COM)

The  
**key**  
for School  
Governors



**SGOSS**  
Governors for Schools

Welcome to

# School Governor Induction

Get Started

MENU

EXIT

RESOURCES

GLOSSARY

YOUR PROGRESS

USE THESE ARROWS  
TO NAVIGATE

**SGOSS offer a FREE  
introduction training module,  
which is available to  
all governors.**

**Accessible anytime,  
anywhere, on any device.**

[www.thekeysupport.com/gov-induction](http://www.thekeysupport.com/gov-induction)

**SGOSS**  
Governors for Schools



**[WWW.BECOMEAGOVERNOR.COM](http://WWW.BECOMEAGOVERNOR.COM)**

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