

## **Role of the Local Authority (LA) Governor**

Wigan Education Service has a clear vision: That all children and young people in the borough, whatever their age, ability, background or setting, will receive an excellent education. This vision is part of the wider Wigan Deal 2030 to ensure the best start in life for all children and young people.

### **Our service priorities**

#### **Ensuring a high quality of education**

Ensure the educational experience and outcomes of our children and young people, across the Borough, in every phase of their education is of high quality so that all children and young people have access to a high-quality school place.

#### **Good levels of health and wellbeing for all children and young people**

Ensure all of our children and young people feel healthy, happy and safe with access to appropriate support and opportunities to learn and grow and become independent and resilient young adults.

To create the conditions for every child and young person in the Borough to enjoy good physical and mental health and to be protected from harm and neglect.

#### **An education system that is inclusive of all children and young people**

All of our education settings will be fully inclusive.

We will provide the right support at the earliest opportunity and develop a range of alternative provisions to support our mainstream offer. We want families to be confident that their children can get the support they need from our mainstream and specialist provision.

#### **A partnership that listens to the voice of children, young people and their families**

The opinions of our children and young people and their families should be considered everywhere. We will provide opportunities to allow children to have their voices heard and will facilitate this for all ages and abilities.

We will effectively engage our children and young people and their families to actively participate in shaping their education within their school and the community.

#### **Preparing young people for successful careers and adulthood**

We will create the conditions for all young people, in particular those that are looked after by the authority, care leavers and those with SEND, to have the chance to get the most out of their opportunities. We will support to develop their skills for adulthood so that they aren't prevented by economic disadvantage from achieving their full potential in life.

As a Local Authority Governor, you are expected to share this ambition and understand that raising achievement and keeping children safe is at the heart of your role.

### **As a Local Authority (LA) Governor:**

1. You should work as part of the Governing Board team to promote high standards of educational achievement for every child and must always operate in the best interests of pupils. You will do this by:
  - Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
  - Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the effective and efficient performance management of staff
  - Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent
2. As a representative of the Local Authority, you are expected to behave with integrity and to never bring the reputation of the school or the Council into disrepute.

Once appointed, LA Governors must govern in the interests of the school and not represent or advocate for the political or other interests of the LA. However, an awareness and understanding of Wigan Council priorities and policies will enable you to be appropriately informed when discussing priorities at school level and reflect on the impact of decisions on the local community. The perspective you bring is about how the school fits into the wider provision of education, and you play a key role in 'linking' the Governing Board to information about educational developments and Council priorities.

There may be an expectation for some Governing Boards that LA Governors will attend strategic briefings to keep abreast of the latest developments within the LA.

### **Qualifying Criteria**

Local Authority Governors are nominated by the LA but appointed by the Governing Board. Wigan Council nominate Local Authority (LA) Governors irrespective of their political persuasions.

Nominations are made on:

- A willingness to serve
- The contribution that the candidate could bring to the Governing Board in terms of skills, knowledge and experience
- The commitment to raising the aspirations and achievements of young people in Wigan.

All potential candidates should meet the following qualifying criteria:

- Have good communication and interpersonal skills
- Have a good knowledge of the area and community that the school serves
- Have the ability and willingness to work as a team member and be able to accept the collective responsibility of the Governing Board
- Act in a positive and supportive manner
- Understand and respect the principles of confidentiality

You should be prepared to commit to the following:

- Attend two Governing Board meeting each term, these may be made up of full Governing Board and/or Committee meetings.
- Be willing and able to undertake school monitoring visits during the day on occasion and at least once per year
- To undertake appropriate New Governor Induction training, and additional appropriate training, as deemed necessary
- Be prepared to work with other Governors to increase your knowledge and understanding of the role of the Governing Board in securing school improvement
- Undertake an Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service Check.

### **Restrictions**

- Anyone who would qualify to be a Staff Governor of the school they will serve cannot become an LA Governor.

### **General**

- Be committed to raising the aspirations and achievements of the pupils in their school.
  - Recognise that the purpose of the Governing Board is to help the school provide the best possible education for its pupils.
  - Be willing to act at all times in accordance with the principles laid down by the Committee on Standards in Public Life (the Nolan Committee), i.e., selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.
  - Be committed to the promotion of equality of opportunities, diversity and inclusion for all members of the school community.
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- Governing Boards (or anyone authorised to act on their behalf) may at any time make suggestions of persons they regard as worthy of consideration for appointment as an LA Governor. In such cases, the formal application form must be completed by the nominee.
  - The re-appointment of LA Governors will be considered prior to the end of their term of office. This will consider the wishes expressed by the Governor about

continuing to serve in that capacity, review of skills audit and input into their Governing Board.

- The appointment of additional Governors by the LA under Section 16 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 will follow the above procedures subject to any specific provisions within the Act.