

Charfield Primary school needs new governors. Can you help?

The school is currently small with just over 200 pupils. It looks set to grow in coming years given the scale of planned housing development in the village. We were rated outstanding by Ofsted when they visited the school in 2015 and we are working hard to maintain that standard, as well as make improvements. Governors at the school are focused on ensuring that every child achieves the best that they can achieve.

Our governance committee is made up of people from various stakeholder groups. We have plenty of parents and staff willing to fill the roles, but what we really need are people from the wider community. People who live relatively locally (ie within about 15 miles) and who do not have children at the school.

The main role of the governance committee is to help to raise the standards and performance of the school. We do this by both supporting and challenging the Headteacher to do what is best for the children.

School governors represent England's largest group of volunteers (currently some 300,000 strong), who are dedicated to school improvement. Governors are involved in important decisions to help with the running of the school – for example the curriculum, pupil targets, school improvement. Governors are drawn from all walks of life and no specialist knowledge is required. Moreover, we can provide a broad range of support. This includes newsletters and publications, briefing documents, access to various specialist websites, helplines and training, some specifically for new governors. More experienced governors are also on hand to provide advice and information. We meet six times a year at the school, and you would be expected to come into school 3 times a year for monitoring activities.

Governors report that they derive a range of personal benefits from the work that they do - indeed, many find the role enormously rewarding and stay with the same school for years. These benefits include:

- The opportunity to make a real difference and the chance to contribute to the good of the community, leading to real satisfaction and a sense of achievement.
- The opportunity to gain an understanding of the decision making process of school governing bodies and an awareness of the education system as a whole;
- The opportunity to work with a wide variety of people and pupils from different social, cultural and religious backgrounds.

If you are interested, or would like to know more, please contact me
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Pauline Dixon
Chair of Governors