

The role of the Governing Body

School governors are people who want to make a positive contribution to children's education. Governors are one of the largest volunteer forces in the country and have an important part to play in raising school standards. Every state school in England has a Governing Body. Time and again Ofsted (the national inspection body for schools) has noted that the most effective schools demonstrate effective leadership and management – including by the governing body.

Governors provide strategic leadership and accountability in schools. The key functions of the Governing Body are to:

- set the aims and objectives for the school;
- set the policies for achieving those aims and objectives;
- set the targets for achieving those aims and objectives;
- monitor and evaluate the progress the school is making towards achievement of its aims and objectives; and
- be a source of challenge and support to the Headteacher (a 'critical friend').

Governors appoint the Headteacher and are involved in the appointment of other senior staff. Governors also set the school's budget, working closely with the Headteacher to make the tough decisions about balancing resources. The Headteacher is responsible for the internal organisation, management and control of the school and the implementation of the strategic framework established by the Governing Body.

For more information about the role of school governors, see the [website](#) of the National Governors' Association, where you can find a video produced by ITN showing the impact that a school's governing body can have on children's education, and how governors use skills from other areas of their life to help their school.