

## **The Role of the Parent Governor**

Parent governors play a vital role on Governing Boards, holding the unique position of having a parental viewpoint of the school. Through their children, they have a first-hand experience of the delivery of the curriculum and how the school is perceived by parents and the local community.

It is important for parent governors to maintain a strategic approach to school governance whilst establishing a rapport with the parental body. This can be a delicate role and a parent governor has to be particularly careful regarding issues of confidentiality. Although being available to advise parents on appropriate routes of action is important, it is essential that parent governors do not become personally involved in individual concerns. This could jeopardise the Complaints and Appeals procedures and no governor has the authority to act individually on behalf of the Governing Board. Parent governors have to be sensitive to when they are acting as a Parent and when they are acting as a governor and be able to act upon concerns as a parent without compromising their role as a governor.

### **Parent governors are:**

- Able to work in partnership with the Headteacher, Senior Leadership team and other governors to raise standards and improve outcomes for all children.
- Expected to act in accordance with the Code of Conduct and be aware of conflicts of interest.
- Representative parents and not a representative for parents.
- Able to guide parents regarding appropriate lines of action and procedures.
- Well placed to present a balanced view of issues.
- Equal in status to all other governors.

### **Parent governors are not:**

- Expected to gather the views of other parents and take them to the Governing Board.
- Simply expected to represent the interests of parents.
- Expected to vote as instructed by other parents
- A link between parents and the Governing Board.
- Able to take up individual complaints.