

Instrument of Government

Foundation & Foundation Special Schools

1. The name of the school is **Parkfields Middle School**.
2. The school is a Foundation School which has a foundation, but is not a qualifying foundation school.
3. The address of the school is Park Road, Toddington, Bedfordshire. LU5 6AB.
4. The name of the governing body is "The Governing Body of Parkfields Middle School".
5. The governing body shall consist of:
 - 6 Parent governors
 - 1 Local Authority governor
 - 1 Staff governor
 - 1 Headteacher
 - 6 Co-opted governors
 - 2 Foundation governors
6. The total number of governors is 17.
7. Foundation governors will be appointed by the Harlington Area Schools Trust.
8. The name of the Trust is Harlington Area Schools Trust.
9. This instrument of government came into effect on 06 March 2015.
10. This instrument was made by order of Central Bedfordshire Council on 06 March 2015.
11. A copy of the instrument must be supplied to every member of the governing body and to the Trustees of the Trust.

If you have any further questions or queries please telephone the school as the Chair of the Governing Body is always happy to assist.

Parkfields Middle School
Park Road
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Parkfields Middle School

The Governing Body

Frequently Asked Questions

Brochure 8

(June 2017)



"to flourish, learn & grow"

THE GOVERNING BODY

Why do schools need Governors?

Governing Bodies represent the public in the running of the school. School Governors often bring different perspectives and work alongside the staff and Local Authority to help the school provide the best possible education for all of the children and young people. They also ensure accountability.

Who is represented on the Governing Body?

In addition to the Headteacher, the Governing Body is made up of:

Parent Governors: elected by the other parents in the school and usually have a child in the school at the time of the election.

Local Authority (LA): appointed by the L.A.

Co-Opted Governors: people from the local community - appointed by the Governing Body.

Staff Governors: elected by the school staff.

Foundation Governors: appointed by the Harlington Area Schools Trust.

What does a Governor do?

The role of the Governing Body is diverse but the main responsibilities include:

- Promoting high standards and achievement;
- Planning the school's long-term future;
- Setting the school's vision and values;
- Appointing senior staff, including the Headteacher;
- Budgetary allocation and control;
- Ensuring the curriculum is broad and balanced;
- Holding school leaders to account; and
- Keeping children safe.

Individual Governors may also have a specific responsibility e.g. Child Protection. Governors are offered training (at no cost to the individual) in these key areas. New Governors are asked to attend Central Bedfordshire Council's Induction Training.

How much time does it take up?

Governors are expected to attend full governing body meetings (usually 3 per year). Governors are welcome to join committees and attend those meetings as outlined in the Governors' Calendar. Full Governing Body meetings are usually held on Wednesday evenings from 6.30pm-9pm.

Whilst not compulsory, governors often visit the school by appointment to enable them to see the school in action. The Senior Leadership Team welcomes and encourages these visits.

What makes a good governor?

The most effective Governors:

- Care about children and young people;
- Want children and young people to enjoy school and achieve the best they can;
- Are keen to put something back into their community;
- Are eager to be part of a team with a common purpose and understand the importance of valuing different viewpoints and perspectives;
- Understand the value of lifelong learning and show this by undertaking relevant training; and
- Are willing to ask questions and challenge the school when necessary - headteachers and leadership teams welcome challenge if the effect is to improve the education and well-being of their pupils.

What are the benefits of being a Governor?

Being a Governor is not an easy job. In fact, it can be very challenging but the benefits make it well worthwhile.

These benefits include:

- The satisfaction of knowing that children and young people are benefitting from your efforts;
- An opportunity to develop new skills and strengthen existing ones;
- The opportunity to work as part of a diverse team and develop new friendships and local contacts;
- The opportunity to learn about the education system as a whole;
- The opportunity to gain an understanding of the decision-making process in key areas such as finance, personnel and strategic planning for continuous school improvement; and
- The opportunity to make a real difference and contribute to the good of the community.

What is the legal status of Governing Bodies?

Governing Bodies are set up by law as corporate bodies. Responsibility for the actions and decisions of the governing body rests with the entire governing body and not with individual members.

Provided Governors act within the scope of their functions and procedures, in accordance with the law and their instrument of government and with honesty and good faith, individual Governors will not be held liable if things go wrong as a result of the Governing Body's decisions.