



Cardinal Newman Catholic Primary School

SCHOOL GOVERNORS

School governors form the largest volunteer workforce in the UK with around 370,000 governor places nationally. About 10-15% of these places are always vacant, and the vacancy rate rises to 30% or more in some inner city areas where many positions have been unfilled long-term.

Every school has a governing body. It will include:

- Parents elected by other parents at the school
- Teachers elected by their colleagues
- A governor elected by support staff
- Local education authority governors
- A governor co-opted by other members of the governing body, and, usually, the Headteacher
- Representatives of local Parish churches (Foundation Governors)

Cardinal Newman School Governors
Chair – CAROLE ANN ROYCROFT
Treasurer – DAVID BONE
Contact via School – (01932) 222536
office@cardinal-newman.surrey.sch.uk

Schools are keen to attract people in the community who can bring energy, experience and fresh ideas. Those who would make very good governors may be put off because they think you need to be an expert. Not so - interest, enthusiasm and commitment are much more important. Governors can visit the school and spend time with the staff, and by doing this gain a better understanding how the school works.

What do Governors do at Cardinal Newman?

Our Governing body is made up of the following;

- 3 Parent Governors
- 1 Staff Governor
- 9 Foundation Governors (Elected by Diocese)
- 1 Local authority Governor
- 1 Head Teacher

Governors work as a team. They are responsible for making sure the school provides good quality education and raising standards in school is a key priority.

If you are interested in becoming a Governor, please contact the Clerk to Governors for further information :

(clerk@cardinalnewmanschool.co.uk)

The Headteacher is responsible for the internal organisation, day to day management and control of the school and the implementation of the strategic framework established by the governing body.

The Governing body is responsible to parents, funders and the community. Appointments are for four years. *The governing body's main role is to help raise standards of achievement and has the following responsibilities :*

- accountable for the performance of the school to parents and the wider community;
- plans the school's future direction;
- selects the Headteacher;
- makes decisions on the school's budget and staffing;
- ensures the national curriculum is taught;
- decides how the school can encourage pupil's spiritual, moral and social development;
- ensures the school provides for all its pupils, including those with special needs;
- sets the aims and objectives for the school;
- monitors and evaluates the progress the school is making towards achievement of its aims and objectives;
- a source of challenge and support to the Headteacher (a critical friend).

Governors are at the heart of how a school operates. It is important they get things right. How they do their job affects the interests of pupils, staff morale and the reputation of the school for parents and others in the community.

Governor's support and challenge the Headteacher by gathering views, asking questions and deciding what's best for the school. They are not there to rubber-stamp decisions. They have to be prepared to be adaptable, support decisions taken by the governing body and to be prepared to give up their time as required by the governing body and the school.

Specific Governor Roles

Although Governors are involved in the whole range of responsibilities of the governing body, they may also take on a particular role according to interest and experience. These might include:

- Health and Safety
- Special Educational Needs
- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Early Years

Meetings

Each term there are Full Governing Body meetings. In addition, there are various sub-committees, which also meet once a term.

- Resources
- Learning and Development
- Admissions
- Pay and Review
- Headteacher Performance Review.

What is a "Voluntary Aided School"

Voluntary aided schools (VA) are usually religious schools or faith schools. In a Voluntary Aided school:-

- The land and buildings are normally owned by a charity, often the church or Diocese, but the governing body is responsible for running the school.
- The school is funded partly by the Local Education Authority, but the governing body must pay at least 10% of the costs of capital work.
- This money is raised through voluntary contributions by parents to the Governors' Fund. Contributions from parents can be made either annually or monthly on the attached form.
- Responsibility for work to VA school premises is shared between the school's governing body and the local authority.
- The Local Authority provides support services

- The admissions policy is determined and administered by the Governors in consultation with the Local Authority and other relevant schools in the area.
- In simple terms, at Cardinal Newman, the Local Authority has responsibility for the playing fields and the Governing Body are liable for all other capital expenditure.

What have parents' contributions to the Governors' Fund been used for?

- New Adventure Playground
- Prayer Garden
- Eco-Refitting (double glazing)
- Fire alarm and fire door upgrading
- Upgrade of electrical distribution
- Toilet refurbishment
- New gas boilers and kitchen ventilation
- Classroom lighting upgrades

Future projects (planned for/ hoped for – subject to funding!)

- ☆ **New IT equipment (laptops & tablets)**
- ☆ **Landscaping front of school**
- ☆ **Dance studio/hall extension**
- ☆ **Solar panels**