

Community Action Project
School Governors' One-Stop Shop
Community Action Partner
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Aim: Around 300,000 school governors form the largest group of volunteers in England, giving up their time to assist the Head Teacher with the strategic management of the school. This includes making decisions regarding budget, curriculum, building management and school policy. Their support is invaluable for maintaining and improving school performance. At any one time, around 40,000 governor positions are vacant. Every one of these vacancies is an opportunity for schools to benefit from the skills of people in their local communities. SGOSS works to raise awareness of the role and recruit new volunteers to become school governors.

Role: They are looking for enthusiastic and committed volunteers to become school governors. Governing bodies meet 2-4 times a term and alongside the Head, are responsible for the strategic management of a school. This includes: Allocating the budget, monitoring and evaluating progress, setting aims and values, ensuring accountability and making key strategic decisions. You must be aged 18 or over, enthusiastic and interested in education. You must also be willing to have a CRB check and prepared to commit to attending meetings. The usual term of office is 4 years and although you can quit before your term ends, it's essential that you are looking for a long term voluntary role.

Training: Introductory training should be provided by the school, and further training will be available throughout your term. This could be anything from child safeguarding to curriculum courses.

Location: Please note that although the charity itself is based in London, volunteers are able to join school governing bodies in areas they choose.

Times: This will depend on the school. Most governing bodies meet 2-4 times a school term, usually in the evenings

DBS: A DBS check is required via the Community Partner.

Other: School governors need to be able to work in teams, think strategically and raise questions. Previous or existing work experience is always valuable - financial, project management or HR skills, for example, can be very useful. However, there are no formal requirements to becoming a governor. The best volunteers are those that are passionate about education.

Application: All volunteers must be registered as Community Action volunteers. To do so, visit <http://www.rhul.ac.uk/services/volunteering/register.html>

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