

The role of the Governing Body

Core Functions of Governance:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the effective and efficient performance of staff
- Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent

(Governance Handbook DfE October 2020)

As part of the governing body, all governors are expected to:

1. Contribute to the strategic discussions at governing board meetings which determine
 - the vision and ethos of the school
 - clear and ambitious strategic priorities and targets for the school
 - that all children, including those with special educational needs, have access to a broad and balanced curriculum
 - the school's budget, including the expenditure of the pupil premium allocation
 - the school's staffing structure and key staffing policies
 - the principles to be used by school leaders to set other school policies
2. Hold the senior leaders to account by monitoring the school's performance by
 - agreeing the outcomes from the school's self-evaluation and ensuring they are used to inform the priorities in the school development plan
 - considering all relevant data and feedback provided on request by school leaders and external sources on all aspects of school performance
 - asking challenging questions of school leaders
 - ensuring senior leaders have arranged for the required audits to be carried out and receiving the results of those audits
 - ensuring senior leaders have developed the required policies and procedures and the school is operating effectively according to those policies
 - acting as a link governor on a specific issue, making relevant enquiries of the relevant staff, and reporting to the governing board on the progress on the relevant school priority
 - listening to and reporting to the school's stakeholders: pupils, parents, staff, and the wider community
3. Ensure the school staff have the resources and support they require to do their jobs well, including the necessary expertise on business management, external advice where necessary, effective appraisal and CPD (continuing professional development), suitable premises, and that the way in which the resources are used has a positive impact.

4. When required, serve on panels of governors to
- appoint the headteacher and other senior leaders
 - appraise the headteacher
 - set the headteacher's pay and agree the pay recommendations for other staff
 - hear the second stage of staff grievances and disciplinary matters
 - hear appeals about pupil exclusions.

In order to perform the role well, a governor is expected to:

- get to know the school, including visiting the school occasionally during school hours and gaining a good understanding of the school's strengths and weaknesses
- attend induction training and regular relevant training and development events
- attend meetings (full governing board meetings and committee meetings) and read all the papers before the meeting
- act in the best interests of all the pupils of the school
- behave in a professional manner, as set down in the governing board's code of conduct, including acting in strict confidence.

Composition of the Governing Body

The Governing Body at Castle Camps is made up of 3 Foundation Governors*, 2 Staff Governors (one being the Headteacher), 4 Parent Governors, 1 Local Authority Governor and 2 Co-opted Governors.

*The appointment of Foundation Governors by the Diocese ensures that the school's Christian character is preserved and developed.

Governing Body meetings

The full Governing Body meets twice a term. Regular attendance is an expectation, governors who are unable to attend a meeting send their apologies in advance.

Governing Body Committees

Castle Camps School Governing Body has two committees which meet at least termly:

- Finance and Resources Committee - with responsibility for the school's finances, premises, health & safety and personnel
- Curriculum Committee – with responsibility for teaching & learning, assessment, pupil attainment and well-being

Individual governors' attendance at Governing Body and Committee meetings can be found on the school website.

Governor Monitoring

Governors carry out monitoring visits where they speak to pupils and staff and look at other evidence to ensure that statutory duties are being met and that good progress is being made towards the priorities on the School Development Plan.

Monitoring reports are shared with all governors.

Minutes of Governing Body and Committee meetings

Minutes of Governing Body and Committee meetings are public documents and can be accessed by contacting the school office.

Communication of information

Information on the Governing Body can be found on the Governance page of the School Website.

How to contact the Governing Body

The governors of Castle Camps welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents, carers, and the wider school community – please contact the Chair of Governors, Ali Mansfield:

chair@castlecamps.cambs.sch.uk