OUR SCHOOL NEEDS YOU!

Air Balloon Hill Primary School is a large local authority maintained primary school located in St George, East Bristol.

No matter your age, job role or experience you can become a school governor.

What is a school governor?

School governors play an extremely important role in helping the school to run effectively. The 3 core functions of governors are:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and planning the strategic direction of the school
- Overseeing financial performance of the school, ensuring money is well spent
- Holding the headteacher and school leadership to account for the educational performance of the school, its pupils, and the performance management of staff.

Governors don't get involved in the day to day running of the school instead you support and challenge the school's leadership team to drive school improvement.

School governors are one of the largest volunteer forces in the UK. Being a school governor is a commitment and responsibility, that can be fitted around your existing work and family commitments. It's a rewarding opportunity, offering you the chance to be involved and make a real impact in improving education for children in your community.

There are different types of school governor roles in our school:

- **Parent Governor:**

Our governing board has 2 parent governors. Parents or carers of children at our school are elected to these roles by parent election. Parent governors are appointed to be representative of parents of the school on the board, not to represent them on individual matters.

- **Co-opted Governors:**

Are individuals from the wider community, not necessarily connected to the school, but who have the skills and experience the governing board requires. Our board can have up to 11 Co-opted governors. Parents can be appointed to these roles. Appointment is through application and election by the wider governing board. See the governor pages on abhps.com for more information.

The board also comprises 2 staff governors, one of whom is the Headteacher and 1 local authority governor.

We also have associate members, who are not formal board members.

School governor commitments.

Being a school governor is incredibly rewarding, not only are you helping to ensure our children's education is the best it can be, but you are also networking with new people and learning or enhancing your skills.

The term of office for all governors is four years.

Governors currently meet as a board 5 times a year. Meetings are held in school on a Monday evening. Rarely required, additional meetings are planned with 7 days' notice.

Governors also serve on either the education or finance committee, where the main work of the governing body is undertaken, these meet termly on a Monday at 4.45pm and 6pm respectively.

Once a year governors spend a day in school observing all the things we hear about in meetings. You may also need to make visits to school at other times, play an active role in leadership staff recruitment, review policies and budgets, sit on complaint or HR panels and engage in school specific projects.

Safeguarding

All governors are required to undertake an enhanced Disclosure and Barring service (DBS) check and complete online safeguarding training.

School governor training and support

School governors are vital to ensuring our children receive the best education and we view school governors as integral partners in the leadership of the school.

We provide a comprehensive package of support:

• An Induction package and meeting with the Chair of governors.

• A governor 'Buddy' to support early meetings in our friendly and supportive team.

- Training opportunities through the school's subscription to the Bristol City Council – Governor Development Service and training programme.
- Access to online Governor resources through subscription to 'The School Bus'.



Want to know more?

- For more general information about school governance visit https://www.inspiringgovernance.org
- To find out more about our school or being a governor at our school. Visit the school website www.abhps.com or the governor pages www.abhps.com/governor-vacancies
- Speak to any of our existing governors. Who we are - www.abhps.com/governors.
- Email our Clerk to the governors – Chris Hills – clerk@abhps.com