

## Parent Governor

My name is Kelly and I am the parent governor at Moorlands Primary Academy. The school is currently looking for another parent governor to join the team of governors, I thought I would outline my experiences so far in the hope I can provide more clarity to what the role entails.

I have a little boy currently in the reception class at Moorlands and when I saw the advert for a new parent governor advertised last year I decided to apply. I did this because I am a full-time working mum and I use childcare to pick up my children for me, this means I don't have much interaction with the school on a day to day basis. Being a parent governor appealed to me partly because it meant I had a chance to find out what the school is doing and also to have a chance to influence things if I feel something needs to change.

Most people don't know but an employer has a legal obligation to allow you time out from work to attend parent governor meetings, my employer has been very supportive of this and have allowed me to attend meetings where required. The group meets once a term for 2 -3 hours after school, we discuss a range of issues depending on the time of year and have a chance to have a say on anything that is discussed. I did not have any prior knowledge of how schools work or the national curriculum, this has not been a problem as I have been provided with access to a range of online training courses which I can do in my spare time. These courses have given me the knowledge to understand what people are talking about and everyone is very happy to explain things if I don't understand. Governors are also asked to be part of a sub-committee such as curriculum or finance, these meet once a term so in total there will be 7 meetings a year. Governors are also encouraged to go into school and observe sessions where we can. I have not done this yet, but I did go to the parents evening and speak to some parents there.

I really enjoy being a governor as I feel that understanding the issues the school is facing is invaluable to me when trying to support my children. I also think it is good to be able to provide support and guidance to school and I feel heartened to see how hard the school works for the pupils. It is rewarding when the hard work governors and the school put in is rewarded with a good OFSTED result as was the case recently for Moorlands.

I hope this removes some of the worries people have that stop them from applying to be a governor, if you have an interest in helping the school and 7 free sessions a year then apply, no prior knowledge is required and everyone is very keen to help you pick up the required skills. If you have any other questions please feel free to get in contact with the chair of the governors, Philip Eke or me Kelly Bancroft at [kelly@ibancroft.uk](mailto:kelly@ibancroft.uk)

Thanks