

The Role of a School Governor

2026

School Governors



Governors' responsibilities include:

- Setting the strategic direction of the school and objectives
- Approving policies
- Agreeing the School Development Plan, which sets the School's priorities each year
- Approving the school budget
- Reviewing progress against the School's budget and objectives
- Appointing, and supporting the Headteacher and holding the Headteacher to account.

As a Foundation School, The Astley Cooper School's Board of Governors is the custodian of the school site and acts as the employer.

Governors are trained volunteers made up of representatives of key stakeholders: elected parents, staff, the local authority and the local community. The Astley Cooper School's Governing Body endeavours to recruit governors with relevant skills and knowledge to support its work.

As Governing Board we act as a critical friend to the school, reviewing policies, monitoring best practice and value for money to ensure the curriculum is delivered in the best interests of the students. Governors also support the school in practical ways by offering advice through their own experiences or professions.

Governors for Schools website [What do school governors do?](#) is an excellent resource that provides a deeper understanding of the role of a school governor

Governors at Astley Cooper School

The Astley Cooper School is a Maintained school and a Foundation school but the original Foundation has now been dissolved. This has effectively made the Board the Foundation.

There are 18 Governor positions on our Board.

- **Partnership Governors** – 2 positions.

As a Foundation school we need to understand the local community. This is something these governors can provide.

The Board considers their application and votes whether they should join us.

- **Co-opted Governors** – 11 positions

These individuals bring specific expertise to the Board. This might include a knowledge of HR, finance, careers, health and safety and many others.

People who are interested in join the Board make an application. The Board votes whether they should join us.

- **Local Authority Governor** – 1 position

This person helps us understand how the Local Authority operates and what we need to consider.

This person can be proposed by the LA but the appointment is the Board's decision and we can advertise a vacancy and appoint a suitable person if they apply.

- **Staff Governors** – 1 position

As a member of staff this person helps us understand how the school operates on a day-to-day basis and ensure we don't propose things that are not practical within the school's setting.

The Staff Governor is elected by the staff. The person with the most votes automatically joins the Board

- **Parent Governors** – 2 positions

Parents on the Board help us to understand how parents perceive the school and how they are or may be impacted by new ideas or current practice. The parent Governors are not there to canvas the feelings of the parents but to bring a parent perspective to the Board.

All parents are asked to vote to choose a Parent Governor. The parent with the most votes automatically joins the Board.

- **Headteacher** – 1 position

This role is filled automatically by the Headteacher.