

Becoming a school Governor - What to expect

A governor should have:-

- An interest in **all** children's futures;
- A desire to make a difference;
- A willingness to accept responsibility;
- An ability to work in a team and is happy to ask questions, listen and learn;
- The skills to contribute to effective governance and success of the school, or at least the capacity and willingness to develop them.

and will:-

- Act with integrity, objectivity and honesty in the best interests of the school;
- Fulfil a largely strategic role in the running of the school;
- Work in partnership with the Head of School to raise standards;
- Actively contribute to the work of the Local Academy Board (LAB);
- Abide by the LAB's adopted Code of Conduct.

Typical governor responsibilities:-

- Help to decide the priorities for improving the school;
- Focus on the Redhill Academy Trust's 4 principles;
- Embrace and promote the **7 Key Principles of Public Life**;
- Work co-operatively with other Governors in the best interest of the school;
- Attend the meetings of the LAB and its committees;
- Promote the interest of the school in the wider community;
- Have an equal right to participate and to state their views whilst respecting the views of others;
- Are loyal to the decisions made by the LAB;
- Respect the confidentiality of those items of business that have been designated as confidential and do not disclose what individuals have said or how they have voted;
- Withdraw from a decision from which he or she or a partner or close relative stands to gain or where he or she is too involved to be objective;
- Have regard to the broader responsibilities as a Governor of a public institution in regard to promoting a public accountability for the actions and performance of the LAB;
- Participate in appropriate training.

What to consider when thinking about becoming a governor:

- Do you have an interest in improving the educational provision for young people?
- Can you commit the time – at least 3 evening meetings a year (*usually held on Mondays from 5:30pm*) plus additional committees?
- Do you have the time to prepare for governing body meetings i.e. reading of documents/reports in advance of meetings?
- Do you have the confidence to speak up and challenge?
- Can you work as part of a team of governors to ensure that the LAB provides effective governance to meet the **6 key features** determined by the Department for Education?
- Will you embrace the principles of the **LAB's Code of Conduct**?
- Can you commit to participate in the governors' training programme – this may well be in your own time?