Bellbird Governor Induction Notes

Hello, and welcome to being a new governor at The Bellbird Primary School! Below are a few notes that we hope you will find useful.

Governing Body Structure

There are 16 members of the Governing Body. Three are staff members, the rest are parents, a LA representative and members of the local community, known as "co-opted" governors.

The Full Governing Body (FGB) meets monthly. The Chair of the Governors is John Rimell. Vice Chair is Tim Wreghitt. The group is a decision making group and has to be quorate of 9 people to make decisions. Minutes are taken by the Clerk (Diane Baslington).

There is also a set of sub-committees. The main one is the "Resources and Partnerships" committee. This is chaired by Phil O'Dell. It has delegated authority in that it can make decisions on behalf of the entire governing body except where otherwise stated in law. It handles finance, HR and property and lettings type matters which allows the FGB to have a greater focus on teaching and learning.

Other smaller committees are:

- the FLASH committee, chair Katie Graham
- Health and Safety, chair Nick Silk
- Head Teachers Performance Management (HTPM), chair Tim Wreghitt
- Salaries committee, chair Phil O'Dell.

Most governor meetings tend to be on Monday evenings.

What a governor does:

There are five things that governors are expected to do:

1. Participate in the monthly Full Governing Body meetings
2. After a short while, join and participate in one of the subcommittees
3. After a few months, take on a Lead Governor position. See below.
4. Perform at least one governor visit to the school, per year.
5. When possible, attend governor training and other events, such as the LA Termly Briefings

Lead Governor Position

Given the wide area of topics that the FGB need to cover, rather than always expect all governors to spend time in all areas in depth, we ask each governor to have a slight specialism in a topic agreed with the chair. As the lead governor in that topic, you can then spend a little time outside of the meetings to read-up and become familiar with it. You can also perform a governor visit in your topic area to learn about how the school is performing in that area. Finally in the actual FGB meetings, you can then lead conversation whenever that topic comes up in debate and once a year or so, there will be an agenda item when you can talk about your area to all the governors, so we all benefit from your efforts. Note. You don't have to do this on your own, you can pair up with another governor, and sometimes this can be very beneficial.

Governor Visits

A governor visit is when you, as a governor and at a scheduled day/time, will visit the school. You will have a pre-agreed agenda with the Heads which will have an objective. Usually this is focused on one particular area that you need to find out about. After the visit, you will write up a Visit Report, which you can then talk to at the next FGB. Governor Visits are a great way to get to know the school and for the governing body to perform its duties of holding the Headteachers to account.