

Be a Branfil Governor: help us to improve outcomes for pupils and effectively launch them into the world!



At Branfil, the Governors and staff strive to create a safe, caring and happy school where everybody is respected and valued. We all work together as one team to ensure that an inspiring learning environment is provided for all our pupils.

We continually pursue high standards of academic achievement. We carefully monitor and track pupils' progress and use this information to personalise learning to meet individual needs. We nurture strong relationships with pupils and parents/carers, as these are essential to our children's wellbeing, safety and achievement,

This is an exciting time for Branfil as we plan our future, one which is bright for our pupils and one which is full of innovative opportunities, in addition to a good education and environment in which they can excel.

Governors play a vital role in the success of our school and taking it to the next level – could you be our next Governor?

Being a school Governor is a rewarding and effective way of making a voluntary contribution to the lives of local young people. Governors have a key role in the development and oversight of our school. Governors provide a backbone to Branfil. As well as their expertise and experience, they are a sounding board for new ideas, while also bringing in fresh and innovative suggestions of their own.

We are thinking ahead and exploring the strategic role teachers and Governors carry out in partnership. School development planning, and accurate and incisive self-evaluation and innovation, is crucial to ensure Branfil is fit for the future. We are very open to new ways of working and thinking.

What are Governors?

School leadership is about more than the headteacher: it is about governing bodies as well. Governing bodies are strategic leaders in schools. Governors meet a minimum of twice a term and include parents, teachers, support staff, local council representatives and community representatives.

The Headteacher is accountable to the Governing Body whose role is to set the aims and objectives of the school (together with the Headteacher) in line with national guidelines and to monitor progress towards these.

The Governors also use their areas of expertise to help the school to drive up standards at Branfil and secure the extra things the local education funding does not provide for, but which makes school life better for our pupils.

Have you got:

- an interest in our children's future;
- time, energy and enthusiasm;
- the desire to make a difference;
- readiness to accept responsibility;
- an ability to work as a team;
- the interest to ask questions, listen and learn?

If you have then we would love you to join the Branfil Governing Body, working with others to get the best for our children.



Why become a Governor?

People choose to become a school governor for a variety of reasons: some people want to extend their work experience; others feel they wish to give something back to their local community; many take up the role when they find they have time to spare and are looking for something more rewarding than the usual range of recreational activities.

Whatever your reasons for finding out more about this challenging role, we'd like to give you a synopsis of what's involved, how it can help you, and why it's important for us to find the right people.

What do you receive in return?

Governors do not receive a salary, but in certain situations, they are able to reclaim expenses.

The greatest reward is the enormous pride and satisfaction that comes from helping to create the right environment in which children are well prepared to take on the challenges of life. You are effectively helping to launch them into the world.

As part of their role, governors receive free training on many business and school related management aspects.

Younger governors gain valuable managerial skills and experience, making them more employable within the increasingly competitive world of work, and it prepares them to take on much higher levels of responsibility within their own employer's organisation.

For older governors there is the opportunity to share their wisdom and expertise with those eager to learn and to enjoy challenging intellectual situations and lively debates about the future.

What Governors do not do:

- get involved in the day-to-day running or operational management of the school, nor do anything which would undermine it;
- get involved in the education or discipline of individual pupils unless an exclusion decision has been made;
- act as individuals unless there is specific authority from the Full Governing Body to do so.

Who do we need?

- You must be over eighteen and be able to pass disclosure and barring (DBS) checks;
- You must want to make a difference and actively contribute to making the school a better environment in which teachers can teach and the children maximise their ability to learn, develop and achieve outstanding results;
- You must be willing to attend a certain number of meetings during the academic year (normally three full governing body meetings and at least two committee meetings) which are held on weekday evenings and planned ahead for a whole year - with preparation time, you are likely to need to give at least 25 hours a year – possibly more;
- You must be willing to undertake monitoring of a key aspect – either within a priority subject area or an operational area covering health & safety, building maintenance or finance (don't worry if you haven't prior experience as there is guidance);
- You must be willing to read papers before coming to the meetings, to contribute constructive ideas and comments, if necessary make tough decisions, and sometimes prepare short reports;
- You must be willing to take on committee chair or governing body chair or committee clerk role, if there is a need and you are not already undertaking such a role (extra training provided);
- You must be willing to occasionally contribute by undertaking one-off tasks such as exploring an aspect of improving the school's operations or joining a selection panel;
- Typical governor backgrounds include: HR / legal / medical / finance / management / design / marketing / IT / construction / manufacturing / engineering to name a few.

How to apply

We really are looking to recruit committed and dedicated volunteers who share our values and goals – to make Branfil the best.

If you are the person we are looking for, the Governing Body is dedicated to giving you the chance to truly develop as a valued volunteer.

We look forward to hearing from you and hope that you share our love for Branfil. If we are the right match for each other then we are sure we will have a fruitful and rewarding future together. Please contact our Chair of Governors via the school email: office@branfil.havering.sch.uk.