



PORTSMOUTH
EDUCATION
PARTNERSHIP

pulling together/achieving more



Portsmouth
CITY COUNCIL

COULD YOU BE A SCHOOL GOVERNOR?



www.portsmouth.gov.uk



LOUISE HALFORD SAYS:

I decided to put myself forward to be a parent governor at Wimborne Junior School because I wanted to be involved, first hand, in my children's school. I wanted to be part of the team, driving standards up and ensuring that the children had the best possible experience.

The stereotypical governor image of a group of dull, grey men and women needs well and truly dusting off. Our governor meetings are so much more than that. Everyone has a responsibility, the meetings are interactive and engaging. Also, governor visits into school are insisted upon. Getting to know the pupils and the staff, making sure they know us as a Governing Board, what we do and what we can do to help. I love going into school and speaking to the children, hearing their views on their school and what changes they would like to see made.

The role of governor will be what you make of it – for me it is a hugely rewarding role offering an insight into my children's world, and more importantly how to ensure it is the best possible world for them.



MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE

Being a school governor is a challenging but hugely rewarding role. It will give you the chance to make a real difference to children and young people, give something back to your local community and use and develop your skills in a board-level environment.

As a governor you will be able to:

- Use your own experience of education and life beyond school to inform conversations
- Develop and utilise your skills in a board-level environment
- Make a valuable contribution to education and your community
- Support and challenge the school so that it improves for pupils and staff
- Bring your unique experiences, perspectives and insights in to decision-making in the interests of the school community



**GUY
CORDRAN
SAYS:**

I have enjoyed an interesting and fulfilling career at IBM for the last 25 years. One of the things that gives me real satisfaction is IBM's long-standing commitment to local communities, which is what led me to volunteer as a school governor over 12 years ago.

I've been able to bring many of my business skills and experiences to the role and being a governor has provided me with many opportunities I'd never imagined. I've had new experiences, developed new skills, met new people and taken on challenges far removed from my day job.

Every year I know I'm directly influencing the experiences and life chances of over 300 young people. Last year, the school where I volunteer got its second consecutive "Good" inspection rating by Ofsted which was a milestone in a 6-year journey of improvement. It was a great sense of achievement for both the school and the governing body.

As with any voluntary role, you are committing your time, your skill and your enthusiasm to make a difference by getting involved. In my view it is definitely worth it and the school is genuinely appreciative of my work. Being a school governor has been one of the most fulfilling roles I've done.

SKILLS

Anyone aged over 18 can be a governor and you do not need to be a parent. There is no requirement for you to have an understanding of the education system, just the necessary skills, character and time to contribute. There is plenty of training available to help you learn about education.

Schools welcome governors with a wide range of experience on their governing board including education, finance, human resources, legal, marketing and public relations, property and estates management, and organisational change.

School governors typically attend 6–12 meetings per year, as well as making school visits and investing time in background reading and training. Many employers offer flexibility to enable their staff to take on school governor responsibilities.

FIND OUT MORE

For information about current school governor vacancies in Portsmouth visit the Portsmouth Together website at <https://volunteer.portsmouth.gov.uk> or email schoolgovernor@portsmouthcc.gov.uk



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