

FAQs - What Governors do?

Q. First of all - what do we mean by governance?

The National Governance Association defines governance as follows:

“Governance determines who has the power, who makes the decisions, how other players make their voice heard and how account is rendered”.

Q. What does the governing board at The Winterton Federation do?

The governing board of The Winterton Federation is the federation's legally accountable body. It is responsible for the federation to the local authority, and the to the diocese (in the case of the Infants School).

The Department for Education asks governing boards to fulfil the following core functions:

- 1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;*
- 2. Holding the executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff;*
- 3. Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent;*
- 4. Ensuring the voices of stakeholders are heard.*

Q. How does the board engage with school leaders and staff?

The governing board's role is strategic - looking at the longer term and the big picture. They appoint the Executive Headteacher and other senior leaders and delegate responsibility for the day to day running of the federation to them. The board work in close partnership with federation leaders through regular meetings and reports being mindful of our separate yet complementary roles.

Q. Does the board have an ethics policy?

The governing board conducts itself in accordance with the 7 Principles of Public Life (The Nolan Principles) and also in accordance with the values of the federation. Every year members of the board sign a code of conduct. Ethical leadership is important to us and guides what we do.

Q. Where can I find out what the board has been doing recently?

You will find details of who the governors are, an impact statement that explains how we have made a difference in the past year together with other documents on the federation website.

Q. How could I become involved as a governor?

The board is always keen to hear from anyone who would like to find out more and get involved with governance. The video on the website will tell you more about the role. If you would like to find out how you could become involved do make yourself known to the Executive Headteacher. Volunteering as a school governor can greatly enhance your CV by giving you great experience of working in a committed strategic team and developing new skills.