



Governor

St John's C of E Primary School, Lemsford, nr. Welwyn Garden City

About the School

St John's is a popular, nurturing 0.5 form entry Church of England Voluntary Aided school, adjacent to St John the Evangelist Church in Lemsford Village. We have 4 classes comprising: Reception, Yr 1&2, Yr 3&4 and Yr 5&6. Situated just outside Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, St John's is a community-focussed C of E primary school serving the village and pupils from the wider towns of Hatfield and Welwyn Garden City, where children thrive, and are encouraged to embrace challenge in order to learn to the best of their ability with the support of their families and the dedicated St John's staff.

We aim to provide an environment which enables each child to develop academically, spiritually, socially and physically to their fullest extent possible and this is reflected in our vision “ **I came that they may have life and have it abundantly**” **John 10:10**. Our school is inclusive and caring and puts the safeguarding and the well-being of our children and staff at the very centre of all we do. Learning is through an interesting, relevant and exciting curriculum. All members of our school community are welcomed, valued and respected, in our Christian ethos where every child has the chance to flourish.

We are looking for a Governor with the energy, confidence and commitment to help improve outcomes and be a critical friend to the staff team. You will be passionate about providing the best education for all children and taking steps to make sure every child at St John's is able to learn and enjoy life.

You will need

- A shared Christian vision and the energy and creativity to help achieve the future aspirations of our school.
- A commitment to pupil achievement.
- A constructive approach to turn challenging situations into positive outcomes.
- The desire to create an affinity with St John's children, staff, parents, church and local community and develop networks across the wider community.

Being a governor is an incredibly valuable experience. It is a unique opportunity to give something back to the community, develop your own skills and experiences, take on different challenges and work as part of an established and successful Governing Board with mentoring and support, and benefit your own professional development and career progression. It is a rewarding role and will allow you the opportunity to use your skills to have a positive impact on the education of all of the children in our school.

About us

Our Governing body is committed to continuous improvement, and we are seeking Governors who would bolster our committed team in challenging the school's performance to ensure continued improvement for all our pupils.



What is a school governor?

A governor is a volunteer who gives their time to oversee the long-term development of the school. The three main areas a governor is involved in are:

1. Support and Challenge: This includes asking the difficult questions and holding the school to account for its actions, using your skills and experiences to support the school in achieving its aims and recognising good performance.
2. Providing Strategic Leadership: This Includes helping to set the school's aims and objectives and analysing decisions to check they are achieving the desired results.
3. Making Executive Decisions: This includes budget setting and monitoring, purchasing and premises and appointing senior staff e.g. the Headteacher.

All Governors are expected to:

- Visit and get to know the school and support the aims of the school,
- Work in partnership with the Headteacher, senior leadership team and other governors to raise standards and improve outcomes for all children,
- Prepare for meetings by reading papers beforehand plus briefings and newsletters,
- Take responsibility for your own learning and development including attending training,
- Attend full governing board and relevant committee meetings regularly,
- Be loyal to the decisions made by the governing board and respect the confidentiality of governing board affairs,
- Declare an interest at any meeting where you, a partner or close relative or associate stands to gain, or where you are so close to a matter discussed it is difficult to be impartial,
- Have regard to the broader responsibilities as a governor of a public institution in promoting accountability for the actions and performance of the governing board,
- Uphold the Nolan Principles. For more information please see:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-7-principles-of-public-life>

Can I be a school governor?

- You must be aged 18 and over and living in the UK,
- You must be committed to the role and able to dedicate enough time (see below) to being an active member of the governing board,
- You must not be an elected member of the County Council,
- You should meet the relevant statutory eligibility criteria for school governors as set out in the Regulations and complete an enhanced DBS check,
- You will have: an interest in all the children's futures, a desire to make a difference, a willingness to accept responsibility, an ability to work in a team, ask questions, listen and learn.

The Skills we are seeking to Recruit (it is not expected that all Governors will have these/all of these) include: Finance, HR, Premises, Curriculum development, Assessment of pupil progress, and Change management.

How much time will it take?

The average time commitment is 6-10 hours per half-term (6 half-terms per year). This includes one full governing board meeting (all governors attend) and at least one committee meeting (only members of the committee attend). All governors are expected to join at least one committee from; School Improvement (SIC) or



Personnel & Finance (P&F), or Premises. The commitment also involves time needed for background reading to prepare for meetings, school monitoring visits, etc.

School governors are like magistrates or members of a jury and therefore have a right to reasonable time off work for their public duties (although this may be unpaid). Check with your Human Resources Department for your employer's policy on this.

How long does a governor role last?

School governors have a minimum term of office of four years. However, as a volunteer you can resign at any time if your circumstances change.

Will I be offered any training and support?

New governors are offered an induction and mentoring from existing Governors. This includes completion of a skills audit and ongoing tailored training.

What is the legal responsibility of a governor?

Maintained school governing boards are corporate bodies that are legally responsible for the conduct of the school. Because of this, individual governors are generally protected from personal liability because of the governing board's decisions and actions. Provided they act honestly, reasonably and in good faith, any liability will fall on the governing board, even if it exceeds its powers, rather than on individual members. All Governors will be covered by liability insurance.

We welcome the opportunity to show you our wonderful school, to meet our children and staff team. For further information please visit our website:

[Governors | St John's C of E Primary School \(stjohns561.herts.sch.uk\)](https://stjohns561.herts.sch.uk)

and view the DfE Governance Handbook and Competency Framework at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/governance-handbook>

If you wish to discuss the role please contact Chair of Governors, Richard Cuthbert at richard.cuthbert@stjohns561.herts.sch.uk to arrange a time. We look forward to hearing from and meeting motivated candidates interested in taking on this important and exciting role.

How to apply:

Please send a letter of introduction stating why you would like to be a governor at St John's, Lemsford, how you meet the skills and experience criteria (above) and what you would bring to the role. Please send this by e-mail to the Chair on the e-mail address above.

St John's CofE Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Appointment to this post is subject to an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check as well as other pre-appointment checks outlined in Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2021).

To help us meet our high standards and aspirations of a fully diverse and inclusive team, we encourage suitable applicants from all backgrounds to apply and to join us.