

APPENDIX 1: Becoming a School Governor – What to expect

A governor should have:

- An interest in all children's futures.
- A desire to make a difference.
- A willingness to accept responsibility.
- An ability to work in a team and is happy to ask questions, listen and learn.
- The skills to contribute to effective governance and success of the school, or at least the capacity and willingness to develop them.

and will:

- Act with integrity, objectivity, and honesty in the best interests of the school.
- Fulfil a largely strategic role in the running of the school.
- Work in partnership with the Head of School to raise standards.
- Actively contribute to the work of the Local Academy Board (LAB).
- Abide by the LAB's adopted Code of Conduct.

Typical governor responsibilities:

- Help to decide the priorities for improving the school.
- Focus on the Redhill Academy Trust's 54 principles.
- Embrace and promote the 7 Key Principles of Public Life.
- Work co-operatively with other Governors in the best interest of the school.
- Attend the meetings of the LAB and its committees.
- Promote the interest of the school in the wider community.
- Have an equal right to participate and to state their views whilst respecting the views of others.
- Are loyal to the decisions made by the LAB.
- Respect the confidentiality of those items of business that have been designated as confidential and do not disclose what individuals have said or how they have voted.
- Withdraw from a decision from which he or she or a partner or close relative stands to gain or where he or she is too involved to be objective.
- Have regard to the broader responsibilities as a Governor of a public institution in regard to promoting a public accountability for the actions and performance of the LAB.
- Participate in appropriate training.

What to consider when thinking about becoming a governor:

- Do you have an interest in improving the educational provision for young people?
- Can you commit the time – at least 3 evening meetings a year (usually held on Wednesdays from 5:00pm) plus additional committees?
- Do you have the time to prepare for governing body meetings i.e. reading of documents/reports in advance of meetings?
- Do you have the confidence to speak up and challenge?
- Can you work as part of a team of governors to ensure that the LAB provides effective governance to meet the 6 key features determined by the Department for Education?
- Will you embrace the principles of the LAB's Code of Conduct?
- Can you commit to participate in the governors' training programme – this may well be in your own time?