

KEY FACTS: *All Maintained schools, except Voluntary-Aided schools, include community governors in their membership*

Community Governors:

- Usually live or work in the community served by the school and are committed to the good government and success of the school. Community governors bring their own experience or skills to the governing body and can act as a link with the community. They are appointed to represent community interests to enable the governing body to add specific areas of expertise to the governing body, reflecting a balance of interests amongst the stakeholder group.
- **ARE** appointed by the governing body to serve for a term of 4 years.
- **ARE** entitled to exercise the same powers, duties and responsibilities as other governors and have the same rights as other governors.
- **ARE** required, like other governors, to exercise their own best judgement when contributing to the decisions of the governing body.
- **ARE** eligible to be disqualified from completing their term of office if they fail to attend governing body meetings for more than six months, without the consent of the governing body.
- **CAN** be removed by the governing body following a set procedure.
- **CAN** be suspended by the governing body by resolution, for all or any meetings of the governing body for up to six months for reasons as noted in The Government of Maintained Schools (Wales) Regulations 2005 (Regulation 49).

Community Governors:

- **MAY NOT** hold office or be appointed as a Community governor if they are eligible to be a teacher or staff governor or are a registered pupil at the school.
- **MAY NOT** be appointed as a Community governor if they are an elected member of the LEA.
- **MAY NOT** act individually unless a specific task has been formally allocated to them by the governing body, giving power to the individual governor to act on its behalf.
- **MAY NOT**, in common with all other categories of governor, play a part in the governing body's decision making when they have a personal and/or pecuniary interest in the outcome of the decision.
- **MAY NOT**, in common with all other categories of governor, disclose details which are unlikely to be recorded in the minutes, even if the details have not been deemed to be confidential by the governing body.

Remember like all governors, Community governors can benefit from training. Advice and information can always be sought from the LEA governor support office, the diocesan authority (where appropriate) and from the Governors Wales' helpline 0845 6020100.

Essential reference material:

School Governors Guide to the Law; A Handbook for School Governors in Wales; Principles of Conduct for Governors of Schools in Wales; The Government of Maintained Schools (Wales) Regulations 2005

N.B. This fact file should be read in conjunction with the material listed above and the information produced by your LEA and diocesan authority where appropriate.