

## **The Role of Governors**

Burghfield St Mary's is a maintained school and Governors of maintained schools have three main responsibilities:

- To ensure the school has clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction,
- To hold the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff;
- To oversee the financial performance of the school and ensure its money is well spent.

The constitution and procedures of the Governing Body are prescribed by statute, regulation and ministerial guidance. Governing Bodies are required to be no bigger than necessary to secure the required range of skills. Smaller bodies are believed to be more cohesive and dynamic. The School last reviewed the structure of the Governing Body in 2015, and has thirteen Governors: the Headteacher, one elected by the staff, one appointed by the Local authority, two appointed by the church, three elected by parents, and five co-opted by the Governing Body. Details of individual governors can be found on the website.

All Governors must adopt 'the seven principles of public life': selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.

The Governing Body carries out a skills audit each year to identify any gaps or training needs. Regulations require that those appointing Governors should only appoint those they believe to have appropriate skills. All Governors are expected to be willing to undertake training and development to fill any skill gap.

With respect to elected Governors it is the Governing Bodies duty to inform the electorate of the extent to which candidates possess the qualities required, and to provide appropriate training opportunities and where appropriate mentoring to those elected.