

ABBOTSWOOD JUNIOR SCHOOL

'Helping **everyone** achieve their best'

Ringwood Road
Totton
Southampton
SO40 8EB

Telephone: (023) 8086 3159
E-mail: admin.office@abbsch.co.uk
www.abbotswood.hants.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr G Moore



'It Really Does Matter'

18th September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

Parent Governor Vacancy

At Abbotswood we have always aimed for a partnership with parents, which undoubtedly brings benefits for all families. We now have a vacancy for a parent governor. This is an excellent opportunity to contribute to the school and get more involved in important decisions about the school and your child's education. The role is unpaid and takes a few hours of your spare time.

Below are some of the common queries about being a governor. For more information, you can also visit <https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/governors>

If you would like an informal discussion in confidence, please leave your details at the school office and a member of the Governing Body will get back to you.

If you would like to apply, please complete the attached application and email it to admin.office@abbsch.co.uk **by 12 noon on Thursday 2nd October 2025**. Unfortunately, late applications can't be considered.

If there is more than one application, an election will be held and we will write to you again with further details.

For the protection of children all governor appointments are subject to an enhanced DBS check (Disclosure and Barring Service).

Best wishes

Abbotswood Governance Board

What does the Governance Board do?

The Governance Board provides strategic leadership and accountability in school. It has three key functions:

- Holding leaders to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils
- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent

Governors do not take an active part in the day to day running of the school, as this is the responsibility of the head and the staff. We have 15 governor posts, of which two are for parents of children in the school, elected by the parents.

What decisions would I have to make as an individual governor?

All decisions are made as a group and you have no powers as an individual governor.

Will it take a lot of time?

Broadly speaking, your minimum commitment is to attend four meetings a term. These are usually on Mondays at 5.30 pm at school, or virtually on Tuesdays at 1.00 pm. They last up to two hours. If you need to pay for childcare to attend meetings, we will reimburse the cost. Beyond this, you can get involved in one-off exercises, for example, analysing statistics or observing policies in practice. But this would be entirely your choice. Your term of office is for four years and you can remain for four years even if your child leaves the school. You can resign at any time.

What's in it for me?

Being a governor means you are helping to shape your child's school. You will be involved in real matters affecting your child. It's rewarding and interesting. You may have the opportunity to use skills you have gained through your working life, but being a governor also may help you to develop skills and abilities which will be useful to you in the future.

Will it cost me anything?

No. If you attend training, travel expenses can be claimed. If you need to arrange childcare to attend meetings or courses, the school will cover the costs.

Are there any downsides?

Some decisions are hard to make. They can be emotive and sensitive. As a governor it is your job to think strategically about the needs of all children in the school, not just your own children, and it can be difficult to take a balanced view if your child is affected. Not everyone is interested in all aspects of school life. Also, as a governor you **MUST** keep information confidential. The temptation to gossip must be resisted!

What support will I get?

All new governors are invited to attend a Hampshire County Council induction course, which can be during the day or in the evening, and there are plenty of courses available on other topics too. Support and help is available from school staff, other governors, online information and a dedicated Governor Services unit at Hampshire County Council. All training is free.