Taking a small glimpse at our amazing school!

https://www.commonswood.herts.sch.uk/page/?title=Virtual+Tours+%2D+Reception+%2B+Nursery&pid=91

Becoming a Parent Governor
An opportunity to make a difference

Learn about the role of a parent governor
Find out what governors do and do not do
Understand the commitment involved
Ask questions and decide whether governance could be right for you

Why are we here?

We currently have a vacancy for a Parent Governor.

We are looking for parents and carers who:

Care about the education and wellbeing of children

Want to contribute to the school's continued success

Can bring their own skills, experiences and perspectives

Are willing to work as part of a team

You do not need an education background to become a governor.

Supporting the school

Overseeing financial performance
Budget management
Value for money
Long-term sustainability

A child only gets today once

Setting the strategic direction
Vision and values
School improvement priorities

Holding leaders to account

Who are Governors?

Governors are volunteers who work with school leaders to provide:

- ✅ Strategic Leadership
- ✅ Support and Challenge
- ✅ Accountability
- ✅ Financial Oversight

Governors are often described as the school's "critical friend".

What Governors do not do

Governors do not:

- ❌ Run the school day-to-day
- ❌ Manage staff
- ❌ Deal with individual pupil issues
- ❌ Make operational decisions
- ❌ Act as representatives for individual parents

The Headteacher leads the day-to-day running of the school.

Why have parent Governors?

Parent governors bring an important perspective.

They:

Understand the parent experience

Offer valuable insight

Help strengthen communication between school and community

Contribute to balanced decision-making

When acting as governors, they work in the best interests of all pupils.

Skills we value

You do not need specialist knowledge.

We welcome people with:

Good communication skills

Teamwork skills

Curiosity and willingness to learn

Strategic thinking

Interest in children and education

Parents from all backgrounds are encouraged to apply.

What Is the Commitment?

Typically:

Full governing board meetings (usually 7 per year)

Reading papers before meetings

Occasional training sessions

School visits linked to governor responsibilities

Most governors find the role manageable alongside work and family commitments.

Autumn	Spring	Summer
24th September 2026 19th November 2026 Governor day 14th October	14th January 2027 18th March 2027	29th April 2027 13th May 2027 8th July 2027

Support and Training

You will not be expected to know everything.

New governors receive:

Induction support

Access to training

Guidance from experienced governors

Ongoing development opportunities

We work together as a team.

The impact Governors make

Governors help shape:

School improvement priorities

Educational outcomes

Inclusion and SEND provision

Safeguarding culture

Financial decisions

Opportunities available to children

Your contribution can make a real difference to every child in our community.

What our Governors gain

Many governors tell us they gain:

New skills and knowledge

Professional development opportunities

Greater understanding of education

Confidence in strategic leadership

The satisfaction of giving back to the community

Interested?

There is **no obligation** to commit after attending this session.

Next steps:

Ask questions today

Consider submitting a nomination if you decide the role is right for you

We would love to hear from you.

Questions raised:

How many Governors do Commonswood have?

The constitution of a **maintained school governing body in England**, it is set out in the **School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations** 2012 and accompanying Department for Education guidance.
[legislation.gov.uk], [gov.uk]
A governing body must include:

- **The Headteacher**
- **3 Parent Governors** (currently 2)
- **2 Staff Governors** (in addition to the Headteacher)
- **1 Local Authority Governor**
- **4 Co-opted Governors**

Questions raised: What training do governors receive?

Induction Training

- Roles and responsibilities of governors
- Strategic leadership versus operational management
- Understanding the school's vision, values and improvement priorities
- Governing body structures and committees
- Code of conduct and confidentiality
- Governor visits and monitoring arrangements [gov.uk], [assets.pub...ice.gov.uk]

Essential Statutory Training

- Safeguarding and child protection
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)
- Prevent Duty
- Equality and diversity
- Data protection (GDPR)

Governance Skills Training

- Understanding school data and pupil outcomes
- Finance and budgeting
- SEND responsibilities
- Curriculum oversight
- Safer recruitment (for governors serving on appointment panels) [gov.uk], [assets.pub...ice.gov.uk]

Ongoing Development

Questions raised:

Does the governing body reflect the diversity of our school community?

The governing body recognises that it is not yet as diverse as the community it serves and is committed to improving representation. We actively seek to recruit governors from a broad range of backgrounds, experiences and perspectives to strengthen our decision-making and better reflect our school community.