

WHAT DOES A GOVERNOR DO?

Ousedale School has long enjoyed and benefited from good relationships between students, staff and its governors. We recognise and value the abilities, experience and ideas that a diverse group of people drawn from different occupations and walks of life bring to help Ousedale to achieve its best.

What does a governor do?

Ousedale is an Academy, which puts additional responsibilities on the governors as joint owners of the premises and employers of staff.

Governors have important roles to play in supporting the school. Amongst these are:

- ◆ Providing points of view from outside in agreeing and reviewing policies, which range from student behaviour to health and safety.
- ◆ Listening and giving advice.
- ◆ Acting as a 'critical friend' – in the school's interest - whilst being able to ask the right questions in helping improvement.
- ◆ Monitoring the school's performance – financially, academically, socially, etc.
- ◆ Helping us to get much needed resources.
- ◆ Participating in appeals panels, reviews and interviews.
- ◆ Attending events and functions.
- ◆ Visiting the school and lessons, talking to staff and students.
- ◆ Linking with particular subject departments to gain insight into their successes and problems.

Whilst some of these activities can only really take place by visiting the school during the day, necessary aspects of governance are managed through meetings involving governors and senior staff.

Commitment to the school, an interest in education and a willingness to listen and discuss can be far more important than any specialist knowledge.

Through meetings and informal conversations, governors quickly get to know each other and establish a network of contacts and friendships which have endured over the years (despite the odd disagreement!). Involvement in governor training either in-house or from external providers helps to induct new members and to refresh the more experienced.