

Help Shape the Future of Education on St Helena

Become a Co-opted Governor

St Helena's schools are working towards international accreditation through COBIS (the Council of British International Schools). As part of this work, a new Governing Board is being created to support and oversee all three schools. We need your skills and experience to help improve education for children and young people on St Helena.

What is a Governing Board?

A Governing Board is a group of volunteers who help make sure schools are providing the best possible education.

Governors work with school leaders to:

- Set the long-term direction of schools
- Monitor school performance
- Ensure pupils are safe and supported
- Oversee how resources are used
- Support and challenge school leaders

Governors do not run schools day-to-day. That remains the responsibility of Headteachers and school staff. The Headteachers are also members of the Governing Board.

What is a Co-opted Governor?

A Co-opted Governor is someone appointed because they can bring useful skills, knowledge or experience to the board.

We are interested in people with experience in areas such as:

- Education
- Business
- Governance
- Safeguarding
- Community leadership

Previous experience as a governor is not required. Training and support will be provided.

Why Get Involved?

Becoming a governor is an opportunity to:

- Help improve education on St Helena
- Support children and young people
- Contribute to important decisions about schools
- Develop your own skills and experience
- Play a part in the schools' COBIS accreditation journey

How Will the Board Be Formed?

The Governing Board will be established in stages.

The first stage will appoint Co-opted Governors to bring together the skills and expertise needed to support the schools. Co-opted Governors will be selected from those who have

responded to an expression of interest and who have the relevant skills and expertise to contribute to the effective governance of the schools. Once expressions of interest have been received, the COBIS Steering Group will review the expressions of interest to determine who is best placed to serve on the Board of Governors. The priority will be to those who are most qualified with the relevant experience for the sub-committees so that a balanced Board of Governors is created. There are 8 spaces for co-opted governors.

In the second phase, academic year 2026-2027, parents and staff will be invited to stand for election as a member of the Board of Governors. These positions will be elected by school staff and parents of pupils in each school. 3 parent governors will be elected, one from each school. 3 staff governors will be elected, one from each school.

What Time Commitment is required?

There will be two Full Governing Board (FGB) meetings per year. In addition to this, it is expected that each governor will be a member of up to two sub-committees which will also be twice per year:

- Safeguarding and Additional Educational Needs
- Infrastructure, Finance and IT
- Curriculum and Standards Committee
- School Life

This means attendance at 4-6 meetings per year will be required.

Additional duties include: attending school events, meeting preparation e.g. reading papers, and school visits to meet with staff and pupils.

Want to Know More?

What school governors do

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tVht0qh5gFY>

Why become a school governor

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=19D6iSy7DMg>

The role of school governors and trustees

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mRqJ_bFipHk

If you would like to express your interest in becoming a member of the Board of Governors, please complete this [form](#) or contact

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The deadline for expressions of interest is Sunday 2 August 2026.