



FACT FILE 02/05 (revision 2)

PARENT GOVERNORS

- **ARE** elected as representative of the interests of parents of pupils. Parent governors are, however, not mandated delegates of parents;
- **ARE** elected to serve a term of office of 4 years. Parent governors do not have to resign if their child leaves the school during their term of office, although they may do so if they wish;
- **ARE** entitled to exercise the same powers, duties and responsibilities as other governors and have the same rights as other governors;
- **ARE** a distinctive category of governor and, as elected representatives, are well placed to understand the needs and points of view of parents. This helps to enhance the governing body's understanding of its role;
- **ARE** elected by parents and should bear in mind the interests of parents and pupils in the course of contributing to governing body business;
- **ARE** required, like other governors, to exercise their own best judgement when contributing to the decisions of the governing body;
- **ARE** eligible to be disqualified from completing their term of office if they fail to attend governing body meetings for more than 6 months, without the governing body's consent. Parent governors can also be suspended for up to six months for reasons as noted in The Government of Maintained Schools (Wales) Regulations 2005 *.
- **CANNOT** be mandated by the parents they represent to support a particular position with which the parent governor does not agree;
- **CANNOT**, whilst reporting back to parent colleagues after a meeting, disclose details of discussions which are unlikely to be recorded in the minutes, even if their report concerns matters that have not been deemed by the governing body to be confidential;
- **CANNOT**, in common with all other categories of governor, act individually unless a specific task has been formally allocated to them by the governing body, giving power to the individual governor to act on its behalf;
- **CANNOT**, in common with all other categories of governor, play a part in the governing body's decision making when they have a personal and/or pecuniary interest in the outcome of the decision;
- **CANNOT** be removed from office by the parent body or by the governing body before they have served their full term of office;
- **CANNOT** offer themselves for re-election as a parent governor if their child is no longer registered at the school

The governing body can in certain circumstances, as outlined in the regulations*, appoint parent governors. Remember that like all governors, parent governors can benefit from training. Advice and information can always be sought from your governor support office within the LA and from the Governors Wales' Helpline 0845 6020100.

Essential reference material for parent governors:
School Governors Guide to the Law, School Governors Handbook
**The Government of Maintained Schools (Wales) Regulations 2005*
Principles of Conduct for Governors of Schools in Wales