

Quick guide to governor elections, appointments and re-appointments in Maintained Schools

For maintained governing boards and governance professionals in Oxfordshire
August 2022

NOTE

It is a legal requirement that all the **appointed** (as opposed to elected) governor types below can only be appointed if they have “the skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school”. This rule is from the [Constitution 2012 Regulations](#) (as amended in [2014](#))

Type of Governor	Who Appoints?	How are they appointed?	Comments	Term of Office
Parent	Parent Body (see procedures for specific details)	Election process delegated to headteachers by the local authority – see Parent Governor Election Process	An election can take place before a term of office comes to an end. A new governor’s term of office will start the day after the outgoing governor’s term ends.	4 years. Reappointment is not allowed. Term of office starts from the date nominations close if no ballot is needed. If there is an election, term starts on the day of the count.
Staff	All staff, teaching and non-teaching (see procedures for specific details)	<i>Election process delegated to headteachers by the local authority</i> – see Staff Governor Election Process	The governing board must consist of less than one third staff members	The same as parent governors
Local Authority	Governing Board	At a full governing body meeting – agenda item See LA Governor Appointment procedures	LA governors are nominated by county councillors and appointed by governing boards, based on the skill set required	Term of office starts from the date of the meeting where the appointment was agreed. Can be reappointed, subject to approval by county councillor
Co-opted	Governing Board	At a full governing body meeting – agenda item	Appointments made based on skill set required. A new governor’s term of office will start the day after the outgoing governor’s term ends.	Term of office starts from the date of the meeting where the appointment was agreed. Can be reappointed by the FGB

Type of Governor	Who Appoints?	How are they appointed?	Comments	Term of Office
Foundation	Identified in the instrument of government. Usually the Diocese. Foundation Governors can also be 'ex officio'	The process will vary depending on the appointing body		Determined by the appointing body
Headteacher	They are a governor by virtue of their role in the school.	Ex-officio	A headteacher can resign from the board, but the role cannot be filled by anyone else.	For the duration of their employment
Associate Member	Governing Board	Appointment at a full governing body meeting – agenda item	Associate members do not have the status of governor. They do not count towards quorum or have a vote at FGB meetings. See guidance notes	The governing body agrees the term of office of the associate member at the point of the appointment – between 1 and 4 years.