

Frequently asked questions about Reading Girls' School Governors and the Governing Body

[What is the Governing Body?](#)

The Governing Body is a group of individuals (governors) whose purpose is to ensure that pupils receive the best education possible. Every school is required by law to have a Governing Body. Governors come from a wide variety of backgrounds; some are parents / carers of pupils at the school, whereas others may be members of staff, or individuals that represent the community. The different types of governors at Reading Girls' School (RGS) are discussed below in the section: [Who is in the Governing Body?](#)

Ensuring that pupils receive the best possible education is not only about academic achievement, but also a sense of wellbeing, a curriculum that maximises opportunity, a safe and secure environment, proper financial management and so on.

With such a wide variety of factors that contribute to the experience that pupils have at school it's vital that governors have a breadth of skills and perspectives. The most important qualities though are undoubtedly commitment, enthusiasm and a desire to see continuous improvement.

[How often does the Governing Body meet?](#)

There are Full Governing Body (where all Governors are present) meetings at least 3 times a year.

In addition the two Committees: Curriculum Students & Community (CS&C) and Finance, Planning & Resources (FP&R) also meet every other half term.

These meetings are alternated so that, for example, for the academic year 2014/2015 the Full Governing Body meetings were held in Terms 1, 2, 4 and 6 and the two committee meetings are both held in Terms 1, 2, 3 and 5. This ensures that Governors meet frequently throughout the year.

Meetings are usually held on a Tuesday or a Wednesday with starting times varying between 4pm and 6pm. Governors also spend half or full days in school during which they have the opportunity to visit school departments.

[Who is in the Governing Body?](#)

There are different types of Governors and many types of school including RGS can choose the number and type of Governors that best suits their circumstances, within certain guidelines.

The Governing Body at RGS, reconstituted in 2015 has 3 Parent Governors, 1 Local Authority (LA) Governors, 1 elected Staff Governor, the Head Teacher, 2 Foundation Trust Governors appointed by the Girls' Trust for Educational Excellence and Enterprise plus 7 Co-opted Governors. Mostly these positions are filled, but vacancies crop up from time to time because Governors are nominated for a fixed term (though this may be renewed). All Governing Bodies have a Chair and Vice Chair of Governors who are responsible for the overall management of the Governing Body and a Clerk whose role is to take the minutes of all meetings, distribute relevant papers and provide assistance to the Chairs of meetings.

Parent Governors are parents or carers who have a child registered at the school. When vacancies for Parent Governors occur the Governing Body invited parents to apply and an election is held if necessary. The LA Governor is nominated by the Local Authority, Reading Borough Council. The Staff Governor is a paid member of the teaching or support staff at the school who is elected by the staff; Co-opted Governors are appointed by the Governing Body to represent community interests and bring relevant skills to the governing body and can include additional staff members. Foundation Trust Governors are nominated by the Trust formed by Reading Girls' and Kendrick schools, whose Board is made up of governors and staff from the two schools together with a number of independent supporters. The Trust is a Company limited by guarantee which means it is a non-profit making company that owns the land and building of the school.

Meetings frequently include other individuals as appropriate such as the Leadership Team (senior members of RGS staff), the School Council (a group of pupils who represent the views of their peers) plus other invited guests.

[What kind of topics are discussed?](#)

A wide range of topics are discussed at meetings such as: academic results and targets, curriculum, attendance and behaviour, staffing and recruitment, the views of parents and carers, health & safety, buildings, finance, policies, external partnerships etc.

[What are the main achievements of the Governing Body?](#)

The Governing Body cannot achieve anything in isolation; it always needs to work with the school and its other partners. However the Governing Body has had a significant leadership role in:

- The creation of the Post-16 centre and its management.
- The creation and development the Trust with Kendrick School.
- Supporting the school to achieve significantly improved academic performance.
- The provision of a broad based and flexible curriculum.
- Ensuring that the voice of pupils is heard and responded too.

[How can I found out more information?](#)

If you would like further information please email:

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