

Queen Mary's Grammar School

Proud to be part of the Mercian Multi-Academy Trust

Vacancy: School Governor

Come and help lead one of the country's top schools from strength to strength.

Queen Mary's Grammar School, Walsall, founded in 1554 by Royal Charter granted by Queen Mary Tudor, enjoys a national reputation for success. Rated 'Outstanding' by Ofsted following inspection in March 2023, it regularly posts exam results that match the performance of elite schools in both the independent and maintained sectors. Getting involved in this community is both demanding and invigorating; it is also immensely rewarding.

The School, which has academy status, is on an attractive campus in the South of the Borough. Over the past eight years, we have grown from 700 to 1400 students and developed the campus extensively. We have gained a national reputation for our work in promoting social mobility and in terms of wellbeing. The Board of Governors has been key to supporting these exciting developments. We are a diverse school and seek to represent this diversity in our local governing board..

In January 2018, we were a founding member of the Mercian Multi-Academy Trust, now working as part of nine schools across Walsall and Sandwell to improve the local educational landscape.

We are looking for individuals to join our Local Governing Body ("LGB") as Foundation Governors. You will join a Board that is enterprising and ambitious for the School and its students.

The LGB works with the Headmaster and Senior Leadership Team to set and approve the strategic direction of the School, with primary responsibility for its educational character and mission. The LGB also maintains oversight of the operational running of the School, reporting into the board of trustees.

We are looking for applicants with the background, dynamism and enthusiasm to make a contribution to the continued success of the School and intend to make more than one appointment to replace retiring governors. At least one appointee should have experience at a senior level within education but this should not preclude applications from individuals with management/board level experience as we intend to maintain broad diversity.

Governors attend 5 evening meetings a year and are encouraged to visit the School and be part of the community. The role is unpaid, but travel and other expenses are reimbursed.

If you are interested, please send for an information pack or download one from the School's website www.qmgs.sch.uk.

If you would like more information before deciding, do contact David Milne, Clerk to the Governors, on 01922 745547 for an informal discussion that will not form part of the selection process.

Applications, that should comprise your CV and a supporting letter of no more than two pages, should be sent to the Clerk either by email (clerk@qmfoundation.org) or by post to the School's address on its website by the closing date of **Friday 1st March 2024**. Candidates will be notified of arrangements for interviews as soon as possible.

Becoming a Governor: frequently asked questions

A good Governing Body is vital to a School's success. But why is this?

- Governors make key decisions, such as appointing the Headteacher
- Governors' decisions directly affect the education and wellbeing of children
- Governors can make a difference in improving standards throughout a School.

What are the benefits of being a School Governor?

- The knowledge that you have played a part in improving children's education
- A chance to develop new skills and to practice existing ones, such as chairing meetings, speaking in groups, asking questions, making suggestions and appointing staff
- The opportunity to contribute your knowledge and skills to the team.

Do I need qualifications to be a School Governor?

No. Schools need volunteers with a variety of life experiences.

While you do not need qualifications to be a Governor, the following are important:

- A commitment to regular attendance at meetings of the Governing Body and any Committees to which they are appointed
- A desire to raise the standards of education within the School
- A willingness to share skills and expertise within the context of the Governing Body.

I work full-time. Will I still have time to be a School Governor?

Most of our Governors are in full-time work. We positively welcome applicants who are working.

Governors' meetings rarely take place during the working day as most are arranged for the evenings.

What makes a good Governor?

- You want to make Queen Mary's Grammar School an outstanding centre of education
- You care about improving children's education
- You want to contribute to your local community
- You want to work as part of a team and can value the contribution made by other people
- You accept the need to receive training
- You are willing to ask questions
- You are open to ideas and willing to learn

What can I offer?

Enthusiasm and commitment

If you are a parent, you will understand other parents' concerns, but you don't need to be a parent to be a School Governor.

As a member of the School's community your local knowledge will be valuable - you will have a feel for what is important to people in the area.

How does a Governing Body work?

- Works closely with the Headmaster and the Senior Leadership Team
- Plays a fundamental part in the strategic direction of the School
- Makes decisions democratically as a team
- Gets to know the School, and forms links with the teachers and students
- Meets at least once a term, a total of 5 meetings a year
- Conducts most of its business through meetings.

How much time does it take?

The amount of time that Governors can give to the role will vary, but if you are serious about helping Queen Mary's Grammar School be outstanding, then you do need to:

- Be willing to prepare for meetings - there can be a lot of papers to read
- Attend meetings - the Governing Body will normally hold 4 evening meetings a year, plus one meeting during the afternoon in the summer term;
- Take decisions, sometimes quite difficult ones
- Participate - if you cannot prepare for, and attend, meetings you will not be able to make an effective contribution to help the School.

What committees are there?

Since the formation of the Mercian Multi-Academy Trust, there are no separate committee meetings.

Can I expect to receive any help and support?

Yes. There are courses provided by the Local Authority for new Governors, but we ask a serving Governor to help you understand what is going on – a sort of mentor.

Governors can expect to receive:

- Written support materials published by the Department for Education and the Local Authority
- Induction and other training to help Governors carry out their duties, via the School, Mercian Trust and Walsall LA governance services
- Readily accessible advice and support from the Clerk to the Governors
- Help from the School's Headmaster, other staff and fellow Governors

What does it mean that the school is an Academy and part of a Multi-Academy Trust?

The school converted to an Academy in June 2011 and was a founder member of the Mercian Trust when it founded in January 2018. More detail on the Mercian Trust can be found [here](#).

The Governors of the school are have three core strategic functions, namely:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding the head teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils; and
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

How do I apply to be a Governor?

You should send your CV and a supporting letter of no more than 2 pages to David Milne, the Clerk to the Governing Body either by email (clerk@qmfoundation.org) or by post to Queen Mary's Grammar School, Sutton Road, Walsall, WS1 2PG,

Candidates will be expected to provide two referees, preferably one professional and one personal. References will be taken up for short-listed candidates prior to interview.

Applications will need to be received by close of business on Friday 1st March 2024. A small panel of Governors and advisors will consider the applications, and a short-list of candidates will be asked to attend for interview at the school at a time to be arranged.