**1 Appointment of Local Authority Governors**

The Governance Handbook (DfE 2017) states that Governing Bodies should have the necessary skills and commitment, including the ability to provide appropriate challenge to bring about improvement and hold leaders to account for their performance.

**Local Authority Governors** are appointed as representatives of the Local Authority (L.A.)

Applicants must be able to support the priorities of the Local Authority and the best interests of the school and not represent or advocate for the political or other interests of the Local Authority.

Sefton Local Authority has a statutory duty to appoint Local Authority governors to all Maintained School Governing Bodies.

**Criteria for appointment**

No one can be an LA governor if:

* they are eligible to be a staff governor;
* they are under 18 years of age;
* they have been disqualified from any Governing Board through non-attendance in the previous 12-month period.

**Governing Bodies must apply for an enhanced criminal records certificate through the Disclosure and Barring Service (D.B.S) before the governor can formally take up their role. The date of appointment will be the date of the D.B.S clearance.**

**Responsibilities:**

The following criteria has been produced to assist in the application/assessment process.

* Be aware of the broader aims of Sefton’s 2030 vision. <https://www.sefton.gov.uk/your-council/vision-and-core-purpose.aspx>
* Be able to display support for the main Council strategic aims for Schools and Families about achieving the best outcomes for children.
* Gain an understanding of the Local Authority’s role in education.
* Keep updated with local and national developments.
* Have an awareness of the issues facing schools and Local Authorities within the national context.
* Have an awareness or understanding of how the performance of schools is measured.
* Get to know the school and its strengths and areas for development.
* Have analytical skills.
* Act in the best interests of the children always.
* Recognise that all governors have the same rights and responsibilities and that no governor can act alone unless agreed by the Governing Board.
* Be prepared to give time to the school.
* Be committed to attending training.
* Have skills and experience to make effective contributions to the Governing Board.
* Have specific skills to strengthen a Governing Board.
* Able to take part in self-evaluation.
* Adhere to the Seven Principles of Public Life <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-7-principles-of-public-life>
* To act within the framework of the Governing Board’s legal requirements and agreed policies.

**Behaviours:**

* Display a passion for improving children’s outcomes.
* Act as a critical friend to the school.
* Be sensitive to pressures under which headteachers and staff work.
* Demonstrate good interpersonal, teamwork and communication skills.
* Able to establish good effective working relationships with all school staff.
* Be self-motivated.
* Able to appropriately question and challenge the work of the school and to monitor and evaluate its performance.
* Commit to the time needed to attend meetings, training, conduct school visits.
* Respect confidentiality.
* Record any business interests in connection with the Governing Board’s business and declare any conflict of interest.
* Adhere by the Governing Body’s Code of Conduct\*

\*Sefton LA Governors are expected to sign up the Governing Body’s agreed Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct will set out the expectations, the behaviours and the commitment that are needed for the Governing Body to discharge its strategic functions. It is recommended that schools adopt the National Governors’ Association Model Code of Conduct (2018) and personalise it to the governing body’s needs. <https://www.nga.org.uk/codeofconduct2018>

By law, employers must give employees who serve on maintained school boards ‘reasonable time off’ to carry out their duties. The employer and the employee must agree on what is ‘reasonable time off’.