

### School Governor Exit Questionnaire

School	Length of Service		Category	Office Held
	Years	Months		
Dunnington Primary School	7		Foundation	Chair Jan to September 2007; Chair of Personnel 2002 - 2007
Archbishop Holgate's School	3		Foundation	
Millthorpe School	3	6	Community	
Hob Moor Primary, Oaks and Millthorpe	10		Parent/Community	Chair of Governors
Naburn Primary School	3		LA	Chairman for two years
Lowfield School	12		Teacher	
Lowfield School	8		Parent/Community	Chair
Oaklands School	2	6	Community	
Elvington CE School	8?		Foundation	On Performance Management Team
Wheldrake with Thorganby CE Primary	4		Foundation	
Hob Moor Oaks Special School	10		LA/Voluntary	Chair of Governors
Fulford School	5		Co-opted	Chair of Finance, Chair of Pupil Discipline
All Saints School	6	2	Parent, then Foundation	
Heworth Primary School	5	5	Foundation	Child Protection
Carr Junior, Acomb	5			Subject: Literacy; Responsibility: Nutrition/school meals
Lowfield School	7		LA	Chairman - Pupil Welfare
Lowfield School	2		Support Staff Governor	
Haxby Road Primary School	12		Co-opted - Community	Chair of Governors - Governor with responsibility for special needs
York High School/Oaklands Schools	2		Community	Vice Chair
Oaklands and Queen Anne Schools	20		Parent then Community	Chair - Queen Anne; Chair Finance - Oaklands
Dringhouses Primary School	4		Parent and Community	Chair Performance Management; Chair Curriculum
Lowfield School	13		Parent then Co-opted	Chair Curriculum (2 years)
Lowfield School after about 10 years on joint Carr Governors	17+10		LEA, Parent	Chaired Curriculum
Lowfield School	6?		Parent, then Community	
Oaken Grove/Wigginton Primary	8/9?		Co-opted then Community	
St Wilfrid's Primary School	3		LEA	Chair, Staff and Finance Committee
Hob Moor Primary School		18	LEA	
Scarcroft CPS, St Paul's CofE PS, Millthorpe	10		Community	Scarcroft-Special Needs, Millthorpe-Link Gov for Music & Drama
St Lawrences	7		Church (Foundation)	
Burholme	4		Community	Technology, Pupil Discipline Committee
Haxby Road Primary School	Many!		Community	Chair of Governors
Oaklands / York High School	11		Community	Chair of Governors
Scarcroft Primary	3	4	LA	
Wheldrake with Thorganby Ce Aided	2	6	Foundation	

**Reason(s) for Leaving**

	Number
End of term of office	5
Workload too great	3
Work commitments	7
Family commitments	5
Ill health	3
Children have left the school	2
Other	See comments on next sheet

**Support you received as a Governor**

	YES	NO
Did you attend Governor training?	31	2
Did you find the termly mailout for the Local Authority useful	30	1
did you ever contact the Governor Support & Development Service?	14	18
Did the call resolve your query	13	1
As a new Governor, did you have a mentor?	8	24
As a new Governor, did your Governing Body offer any induction?	10	21
Would you consider being a Governor again in the future?	18	12

### **Reason for Leaving - Other**

Left the area and associated employment

Relocation to SE England owing to my husband's promotion

Headteacher retired. Decided time for me to go

I began working away from home for an extended period and couldn't attend meetings

Lowfield School merged with Oaklands to create York High School - I served on the temporary Gov to YHS until its start September 2007

School closed as part of reorganisation of West of York secondary provision

I didn't know I had been sacked - no reason to leave at all

Other commitments

Disagreement over the management and suspension of a teacher.

"Redundant" Lowfield School merged with Oaklands to create York High School

Moved to Oaklands School to promoted post

House move

I have given 20 years service as a Governor. Creation of York High School provides opportunity to withdraw

Wanted to support Lowfield School, first as a parent then to support school and local community. Did not agree with decision to close the school

End of Lowfield School - felt that I was too old to do two terms which I thought desirable to establish continuity with new school. Left Carr Governors after term ran out and my children left junior school

School closed

Death. Mr H died in April 2007.

Having served for 10 years as a Governor I decided that I would like a change to alternative community work to community archaeology at Hungate. I still occasionally go into Millthorpe to helping History

I had no respect for current Chair and didn't like the direction she was taking the board

Oaklands School closed summer 2007

Moved away from york

## **Additional Information Regarding Support Received As A Governor**

### **If you didn't attend training, please tell us why:**

Never offered - not necessary

As a newly retired village school head, I felt I could offer support without (Church and school links)

This Gov did attend training and commented "I'd rather state the positives - that I always found the School Governor Support and Development Service, and the staff and others very helpful, during some difficult times at Haxby Road

### **If you didn't find the termly mailout useful, please tell us why:**

A lot of non-relevant information

Can't remember enough to pass comment

### **If the call did not resolve your query, please tell us why:**

#### **If you would not consider being a Governor again, please tell us why:**

I have done it twice (primary school in Devon before). I work as a volunteer counsellor at Relate so there is a limit as to how many hours I volunteer

Time for others to have an input

Grandparent duties and occasional ill health

Little chance to have an impact

This is a voluntary unpaid activity and being a school Governor is very time consuming particularly if you retired when there is a constant demand for involvement with pupil discipline cases

I am moved away from that part of York - and have retired

From a personal development point of view and as a teacher, I learnt a lot but I don't really think Governors add any value

Would need a reason to want to support a particular school

Too old

Could not make the time commitment to a school where I would have no connection Long term illness. Also I'm more hands on and prefer to help in class with the children

### **What did you enjoy about being a Governor?**

Making a contribution

Working together

Friendship of colleagues and staff

Having an inside knowledge of how a truly innovative school worked

Contributing to the life of the school

Satisfaction at "putting something back into the community"

I felt I represented the staff and was called on many times to express their feelings and explain things to other Governors

The people, the role, the school

Sitting on the appeal panels - pupil exclusion, etc. Meeting and dealing with the headmaster and staff

**What did you enjoy about being a Governor? (Cont...)**

- Promoting links during the church's year. Christmas stories by candlelight (infants - KS1). Helping during new head appointment
- Contribution to development of school and pupils with particular emphasis on the Christian values
- The involvement in whole school process
- Trying to do one's best for the school
- Being involved in a school (secondary) - getting to know the procedures
- Getting to know the school and seeing the children thrive and develop
- Seeing that I was welcomed by teachers and staff and that the input and support appreciated. Learning about trends in education
- Contact and team effort with other school Governors, Head Teacher and Teaching Staff
- Being involved in the decisions affecting school/staff and pupils
- Contact with school staff and children - helping to "make a difference"
- Being involved in the creation of a new school
- Contributing to and acting as a critical friend in the school
- Training, experience running committees
- Cared about the school (staff and pupils) therefore wanted to support in any way I could
- Being involved in trying to improve quality of local schools
- The Governing Body were a very special group of people - the school was well run by a dynamic head and an interesting and committed team, and was doing excellent work
- Being involved in the inner workings of a school
- Great for learning more about the strategic management of schools and feeling contribution welcomed and useful
- The community spirit, being part of an establishment that had challenges and success's
- Seeing how schools work; making a contribution to the community; working as a team with Governors, teachers and other parents; occasional teaching; support from yourselves - especially Annual Ed Lectures
- Being part of a team which worked together for the benefit of the pupils
- Taking an active part in the direction the school was going and working with the Head and staff to improve the school and provision for the children

**What did you not enjoy about being a Governor?**

- The long delay before the papers went through after I was asked to be a Governor. It felt a bit like an old body's club when I started and fellow Governors were not welcoming. It think it improved over the year.
  - Not being able to commit enough time to the school and my departmental links
  - Too much unnecessary paperwork
  - The amount of time taken up with sub Committees then going over it again at full Gov
  - Some of the decisions that had to be made
  - Nothing
  - Paperwork
- What did you not enjoy about being a Governor? (Cont...)**

Selective inclusion by the Headteacher in the decision making process

The workload/legal duties/responsibilities. To-ing and fro-ing of decision making

Little effect you can have

Working through financial details

Feeling that as a Governing Body we did not always have the required

expertise/skills for some of the decisions required

Excessive demands on time available. I already have an ongoing 26 year voluntary service commitment with York Lions Club (with additional activities in Yorkshire and UK)

As Chair of Governors, the responsibility and knowledge required was increasingly suggestive of a part-time appointment

Translating "professional language" used in too many reports

Feeling that you're not sure there's any real point to what you're doing. Takes up too much time

Far too much paperwork to read from Government and York Council - a lot of it worded in jargon difficult to understand, unnecessary bureaucratic documentation - overwhelming

Lowfields: Struggling with a deficit budget; appointment of Head of York High School in breach of terms of advertisement which specified that considerable experience as a Head was required

The painful end to it all

Long meetings!

Nothing

The paperwork!

Occasionally feeling that I was not being shown the whole picture - I would have liked more (and varied) opportunities to be involved in the work of schools

I thoroughly enjoyed my years as a Governor until the appointment of the current Chair - as my term was coming to an end I reluctantly decided to call it a day

### **Anything else about being a Governor?**

Workload is what you make it

Overrated in my view

Best thing I did in the last seven years

I thoroughly enjoyed my time as a Governor, I felt I played an important role representing staff but also in my own right as part of appointment panels including for headships (though this occasioned a lot of pressure).

One of the most worthwhile experiences I have undertaken. Totally different to my working life, made to feel useful

I always wanted to be involved with school and Church services, but am dubious about Governors moving "jobs" like a cabinet, when some of us have experience and expertise in the slot we were chosen for

Arising out of being a school Governor, I trained to be a Pupil Mentor, a commitment I enjoyed greatly and I have been invited to return to York High School to resume this activity now that CRB check has been cleared

**Anything else about being a Governor? (Cont...)**

Format of finance reporting - top down driven - most conform with centralist dictat, rather than respond to cost centres appropriate to a devolved school

Over my years as a governor, paperwork increased in amount and complexity - experience did not help in dealing with this

Lowfields: I was only able to really pull my weight after my retirement as a member of Pupil Welfare Committee. Carr: I felt that the Infant Head was too selective in the information released to Governors. Both schools: we had great help from LEA Link Advisor

It was very pleasant and probably thus unrepresentative!

Would consider doing secondary school - All Saints

On occasion, it would have been useful to provide childcare for some daytime meetings eg like the Surestart Local Action group meeting. Thanks

I asked to move from Scarcroft to St Paul's because I wanted to see how smaller denominational schools differed from larger community schools. Much as I like the ethos of faith schools, I believe that (together with the private sector) they are socially divisive

I really loved being a Governor most of the time but the task became more and more onerous and time consuming - at times almost like a full-time job, But extremely rewarding

I would have welcomed more support when Oaklands was having inspection difficulties and when the Headteacher took early retirement.

At one stage the school was very disorganised about advanced papers - the LA clerking service made a major positive benefit in resolving this.

The work put in by the Governance Service in supporting the establishment of York High School was very good - professional and helpful

Very Regarding! Gave me experience that enhanced my CV that I would not have gained at work

Being a Governor was another chore in a busy life. I didn't feel I contributed anything significant and I missed meetings I didn't have time to attend.