



SHERWOOD FOUNDATION SCHOOL · SUTTON

Be the *Architect* of Potential

We're searching for passionate people ready to shape the future of education — no experience required, just drive, curiosity, and a belief that every child deserves the best.

www.sherwoodfoundationschool.org.uk

★ SCHOOL GOVERNOR RECRUITMENT ★ JOIN OUR BOARD ★ VOLUNTEERS WELCOME

ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

Sherwood Foundation School is an all-age foundation special school and proud member of the Sutton Education Trust (SET). We operate across three campuses — Sherwood Park and Sherwood Manor in Wallington, and Sherwood Hill in Carshalton — serving children and young people aged 4 to 19.

Every pupil at Sherwood holds an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). Our curriculum is designed around the whole child — building independence, essential life skills, and the knowledge needed for adulthood and a fulfilling life. We take a trans-disciplinary approach, bringing together teachers, wellbeing practitioners and therapists to ensure every child feels safe, valued, and ready to thrive.

We are a warm, aspirational community — and our governing board plays a vital role in keeping us that way.

4-19

Age range

3

Campuses across the London Borough of Sutton

183

Pupils, all with an Education, Health & Care Plan

SET

Member of the Sutton Education Trust

WHY VOLUNTEER?

What's in it for you?

Forget “just volunteering.” Becoming a school governor at Sherwood is a genuine career-enhancing, life-enriching, community-shaping experience. Here's what you'll walk away with:



Real Strategic Experience

Sharpen your leadership skills working on genuine budget decisions, performance strategy and long-term planning at board level.



Lasting Impact

Every decision you help make ripples outward — improving outcomes for hundreds of children in your community, today and for years to come.



A Brilliant Network

Connect with professionals from finance, law, education and beyond. Your fellow governors bring a wealth of knowledge and connections.



Free Training & Mentoring

Full mentorship and development support provided. Bring your enthusiasm — we'll take care of everything else.



Community Roots

Be a champion for education in your neighbourhood and a genuine stakeholder in one of Sutton's most important institutions.



CV Gold

Governance is recognised by employers across every sector as a serious, high-value commitment. It shows you lead, not just follow.

THE ROLE

What does a governor actually do?

Think of a governor as a critical friend to the school’s leadership — asking the right questions, scrutinising the right data, and helping steer the ship. You’re not here for the day-to-day; you’re here to make the big stuff happen.

● **Set Strategic Direction**

Work with the Headteacher to define aims, objectives and long-term vision. Review progress and keep the strategy sharp.

● **Financial Stewardship**

Set priorities for a multi-million pound budget. Ensure resources are used wisely and in line with the school improvement plan.

● **Community Involvement**

Act as a genuine voice for the community, bringing fresh perspective and building bridges with the wider world.

● **Create Robust Accountability**

Support and challenge senior leaders. Scrutinise performance data to ensure every child gets the standards they deserve.

● **Oversee Management**

Monitor the effectiveness of strategy, policies, staffing and budgeting — ensuring the school gets best value at every turn.

● **Accountability to All**

Governors are accountable to the Local Authority for the school’s overall performance — a real responsibility that counts.

SKILLS & EXPERTISE

Could your skills make the difference?

Our board works through four committees, each tackling a distinct area of school life. We’re actively looking for people whose professional backgrounds map onto these areas.

Finance & Risk Committee

Meets every half term

Oversees the multi-million pound budget, financial planning, procurement and risk management. Ensures money is spent wisely with robust controls in place.

- Finance & Accounting
- Risk Management
- Audit & Compliance
- Procurement
- Business Management
- Legal

Staffing & Curriculum Committee

Meets once per term

Focuses on quality of teaching and learning, staff recruitment and retention, professional development and pupil outcomes.

- Human Resources
- Recruitment
- Learning & Development
- Employment Law
- Diversity & Inclusion
- Education

Pay Committee

Meets as required

Reviews and sets pay for all staff in line with pay policy, performance data and statutory guidelines. Ensures fairness and transparency.

- HR & Compensation
- Employment Law
- Pay & Reward
- Performance Management
- Data Analysis

Premises, Health & Safety Committee

Meets once per term

Responsible for the school estate, capital projects, statutory compliance and the safety of everyone on site.

- Health & Safety
- Project Management
- Facilities Management
- Construction & Property
- Compliance
- Sustainability

Don’t see your specialism? Governors also bring value through **IT & Digital**, **Marketing & Communications**, **Community Engagement**, **Charity & Voluntary Sector**, and **Senior Leadership**. If you’re passionate about education, we’d love to hear from you.

BOARD COMPOSITION

Who sits on the board?

All governors hold equal status — what differs is simply how they are appointed. Our board reflects and represents the whole Sherwood community.

2

Parent Governors

Elected by parents and carers of current pupils — the community voice at the table.

1

Staff Governor

Elected by teaching and non-teaching staff, bringing the inside view of school life.

1

Local Authority Governor

Appointed by the London Borough of Sutton to represent local interests.

5

Co-opted Governors

Appointed by the board for their skills and expertise — this could be *you!*

2

Foundation Governors

Appointed by the Sutton Education Trust (SET), our collaborative family of local schools.

1

Headteacher

Automatically a governor — the operational leader who helps the board understand school life from the inside.

THE COMMITMENT

What to expect

No previous governance experience needed. Full mentorship and training provided. All you need to bring is enthusiasm and your professional expertise.

4

Year term
of office

4-5

Hours per
month average

4+

Board & committee
meetings per term

6pm

Meeting start time
(approx. 2 hours)

Meetings & visits

All meetings are held **in person** at one of our three school sites. Governors are also expected to undertake regular **link governor visits** to the school, keeping their work rooted in the real life of the community.

Beyond the boardroom

From time to time governors may be asked to sit on **panels** (such as appeals or disciplinaries), take on **specialist link roles**, and commit to ongoing **training** — including keeping up to date with changes in education legislation and governance practice.

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Governance is the highest form of volunteering. You aren't just helping for a day — you're building a legacy for a generation.

Ready to make an *impact*?

Whether you're a finance whiz, a legal eagle, a community champion or simply someone who cares deeply about children's futures — we want to hear from you.

Get in touch today

Email our Chair of Governors directly:

chairofgovs@sherwoodfoundationschool.org.uk

Sherwood Foundation School is committed to safeguarding and child protection.
All appointments are subject to an enhanced DBS check.

Sherwood Foundation School · www.sherwoodfoundationschool.org.uk · Member of the Sutton Education Trust (SET)