

### School Governor Applications: Notes for Guidance

1. You do **not need** particular skills or experience to be eligible to be a school governor but the information that you provide about your skills and experience will be used to help to place you in a school.
2. You will **not** be eligible for a school governor post if:
  - You already hold 3 school governor posts (unless there are exceptional circumstances approved by the Department of Education);
  - You are adjudged bankrupt or under a composition arrangement with your creditors or you are subject to a Bankruptcy Restrictions Order (BRO);
  - You are applying for a post in a school where you are employed;
  - You are applying for a post in a school and you have a financial interest in the supply of goods or services to that school;
  - You are applying for a post in a school which is registered by law as a company limited by guarantee, and you are disqualified by law from being a company director. All grant maintained integrated schools and a few voluntary grammar schools are registered as companies limited by guarantee;
  - You have been convicted within the previous 5 years or any time thereafter of any offence with a sentence of imprisonment (whether suspended or not) for a period of not less than 3 months without the option of a fine. We may require a security check to be carried out through AccessNI prior to any appointment; or
  - You are applying for a post in a school which is registered as a charity and you are disqualified under Article 86 of the Charities Act (NI) 2008 from being a trustee of that charity.
3. No interviews will be held but you may be consulted about vacant posts. You **must** declare any possible conflicts of interest that might arise if and when you are offered an appointment as a governor of a particular named school. Conflicts of interest are not always a barrier to an appointment neither is a criminal record. However, real, perceived and potential conflicts of interest must be considered to ensure that the school community can have confidence in the independence and impartiality of the Board of Governors and your position as a Board member. A conflict of interest could arise if you:
  - are a relative of an existing governor or a member of staff of the school;
  - have a child registered at the school; or
  - are a teacher or the Principal of another school in the same community.

# Competences

## Useful Competences

- Knowledge, skills or experience:
  - in managing, motivating and developing staff or selecting and appointing staff or handling employment issues;
  - in managing finances, which in the case of self governing schools may include accountancy or audit skills;
  - of educating, training or developing children and young people;
  - in medical, social or community work related to the pastoral care and welfare of children and young people; and
  - of team working and developing positive working relationships.
- Leadership abilities that have the potential to contribute to the development of a school and pupil achievements.

## Other Desirable Competences

- Analytical, research and problem solving skills that will contribute to the development of the work of a school and the standards achieved by pupils;
- Communication skills that will support and promote the work of a school Board;
- Knowledge, skills or experience of the education system;
- Knowledge, skills or experience in dealing with legal issues;
- Negotiation skills that will contribute to the management functions of a school Board; and
- Skills in building and supporting good relationships within and beyond the school community – especially with parents, pupils and staff – by valuing and respecting others and by exercising diplomacy when encouraging and, where necessary, challenging others to act responsibly and support the work of the school.