



# Bassingbourn Community Primary School

## Associate Members

### What are they?

Associate members were introduced in the School Governance (Constitution) Regulations 2003. Previously, governing bodies could have 'observers', but their role and limitations were not so clearly defined.

Associate members can be appointed by the governing body to serve on one or more committees and attend full governing body meetings.

There is no obligation for governing bodies to have any associate members.

### What are they for?

They can be appointed as members of one or more governing body committees to contribute specifically on issues related to their area of expertise (eg. finance). This allows governing bodies to benefit from being able to draw upon expertise and experience from outside their formal governor membership.

If a governing body has someone interested in becoming a governor but does not have a suitable vacancy, they can appoint the person as an associate member initially, to get them involved, until such time as there is a governor place available.

Alternatively, a retiring governor may wish to continue working with a governing body in a reduced capacity as an associate member.

### Who can be an associate member?

The definition of associate member is wide and can include pupils and school staff, as well as other people.

### Associate members are:

- appointed for a period of between one and four years
- subject to the same disqualification regulations as governors
- subject to the same code of conduct and protocols for confidentiality as governors

### Associate members are NOT:

- governors!
- recorded in the school's Instrument of Government

### Associate members can:

- chair a governing body committee.



## Bassingbourn Community Primary School

- be given limited voting rights by the governing body (unless they are under the
- age of 18 at the time of their appointment.
- be reappointed at the end of their term of office (unless disqualified).

### Associate members can NOT:

- chair the full governing body.
- be counted in the quorum for full governing body or committee meetings.
- vote in full governing body meetings.
- be given voting rights on decisions concerning:
  - admissions
  - pupil discipline
  - election or appointment of governors
  - the budget
  - financial commitments of the governing body

### The clerk should:

- keep a record of the appointment and term of office of all associate members.
- record which committees have associate members amongst their membership.
- record in committee terms of reference what voting rights (if any) the governing body has agreed for associate members.
- be clear about what associate members can and cannot do and be prepared to clarify this to governors, when queries arise.