

The Academy Committee at Shoeburyness High School (SHS) has a range of skills, talents and experience and members all work very much as a team for the benefit of the school, respecting each other's points of view but always acting as a corporate body, accepting the decisions reached by the majority on the rare occasion we are unable to reach a unanimous decision.

In particular, academy committee members should have:

- an interest in the performance of the school and a willingness to understand and to put something back into the community;
- a strong commitment to the role, the inquisitiveness to question and analyse and the willingness to learn;
- good inter-personal skills, a basic level of literacy in English and sufficient numeracy skills to understand basic data;
- the skills to work constructively in meetings.

The academy committee member's role is to maintain a strategic, rather than operational, view of the school and to support the staff in the decisions they make whilst remaining a critical yet supportive friend to the school as a whole. If you have not been an academy committee member before, the first few meetings may seem a little daunting as education is full of acronyms! However, free training is available to all persons who are elected or appointed as academy committee members.

Academy committee members are either staff members, elected by ballot to the academy committee by their staff colleagues; parent members, elected by ballot by fellow parents; or community members drawn from the local community often because they have a particular skill which the academy committee requires. The make-up of the SHS academy committee is based on the skills needed to make the committee members an effective body to challenge and support the school. To that end we have people who are skilled in finance, education, human resources, and special educational needs to name but a few.

Community members are important to the strategic management of the school as they broaden the experience and skill base of the academy committee and can bring objectivity and a fresh pair of eyes to the issues the school faces.

Community and parent members are not expected to be experts in education, indeed many members start by bringing skills relating to the commercial world and learn about the educational side as they go. The role allows the opportunity to develop new skills, strengthen existing skills and work with a wide range of people. There is training and support available to help you throughout the four year term of office.

Academy Committee meetings are held three times in the Autumn Term, twice in the Spring Term and twice in the Summer Term. All meetings are currently on Monday afternoons beginning at 4pm and lasting for roughly 2 hours. Committee members are expected to attend all meetings. Additionally, we ask that committee members undertake to be present at a minimum of one Parent's Evening and undertake at least once every year a Learning Walk around the school accompanied by a member of staff visiting classrooms and talking to pupils and staff. Committee members are attached to a member of the school's senior management team for liaison purposes and we encourage committee members to visit with the school to meet with this teacher. Additionally, committee members often attend school social events such as the annual theatre production or end of year awards evenings.