

The Role and Work of a Parent Governor

We are seeking a parent who:

- Currently has one or more children in our school
- Has an open and enquiring mind
- Is willing to listen and make informed judgements
- Is able to work well with others
- Is interested in education generally and our school in particular
- Has a desire to play a part in improving our school
- Is willing to give up to 20 hours per term to prepare for and attend approximately 15 meetings per year, plus training.

If you match the above description, you might be someone who could become an effective parent governor. Everyone has something to offer and we welcome nominations from people with a variety of backgrounds and interests.

In return we can offer:

- An insight into the wider perspective of the school through long-term planning.
- A chance to develop skills in strategic leadership.
- The opportunity to work with our team of Governors and Senior Leaders in improving our school.
- Training to develop an understanding of specific school leadership issues.
- A sense of achievement in making a difference to our school at a strategic level.

Time Commitment

Parent Governors are elected for a four-year period. There are approximately 15 governance meetings across the year for which you will be expected to prepare beforehand by reading the (many) documents provided.

You will also be required to undertake specific training related to being a Parent Governor and a trustee of an academy school, as well as to fulfill all of the legal requirements of being part of the Board of Trustees.

There is a considerable work commitment in being a school governor – please ensure you have sufficient time to fulfil the requirements before applying.

Particular Challenges in being a Parent Governor

As a parent governor you will be a governor in your own right, with the same responsibilities as other governors, required to work collaboratively and constructively with the other governors as

part of the Governance Board for the good of the school.

Objectivity is essential. You are not there to promote the interests of your child(ren) or those of your friends, but to provide insight on school policy from a parent's perspective. You are not required to canvass opinion from fellow parents nor do you have to vote in a particular way because you have been asked to do so by other members of the parent community.

Sometimes a parent governor may be approached by another parent with a concern. Parent governors are not there to provide an alternative route to address individual issues (eg relating to a complaint) but should refer all such enquiries to the Head Teacher so that the proper process can be followed.

As an effective governor you will:

- Work in partnership with the Chair of the Board and all governors to raise standards and improve outcomes for all children.
- Support, challenge and monitor the priorities which are outlined in the School Development Plan.
- Attend Board meetings promptly, regularly and for the full duration of the meeting.
- Read all information sent to governors.
- Prepare for meetings by reading papers beforehand.
- Present a balanced view of issues to reflect the different sections of the community.
- Take responsibility for your own learning and development as a governor, including attending training.
- Promote the interests of the school in the wider community.
- Respect the complete confidentiality of all Governance business and information.
- Be loyal to the decisions made by the Board.
- Declare interests and withdraw from any meeting where you or a partner/relative/associate stands to gain, or where you are so close to a matter being discussed that it is difficult to be impartial.
- Abide by the Governance code of conduct and work within the Board's terms of reference and other legal/organizational documents.
- Use the Nolan Principles of Public Life (in the Code of Conduct) as guidance for your governor role.

We do hope that you will consider applying to become a Parent Governor