



Co-opted Governor Vacancy

The governing board is currently recruiting for a co-opted governor position. While there are many and varied skills that individuals can bring to governance, on this occasion we are ideally looking for someone with a strong business background (with experience of budget management and/or human resources) to help fill the gap left by the outgoing governor.

What would be expected of me?

The full governing body meets once every half term on a Monday evening – generally from 7.00 pm for around an hour and a half. We are also hoping that the new co-opted governor would sit on the Resources Committee (which oversees financial, premises and HR matters) and Pay Committee (which has been delegated responsibility for pay policies and setting pay levels in school). Both of these committees hold shorter meetings of generally no more than an hour term. Candidates would of course be very welcome to join additional committees if they desire. The term of office for a governor is four years, so we would be looking for someone willing to make this length of commitment. Additionally, new governors are expected to undertake initial training to help them understand the role and its responsibilities.

What do governors do?

“Governing boards are the vision setters and strategic decision makers for their schools. They play a vital role in ensuring the best possible education that takes every child as far as their talents allow. Crucially, that means creating robust accountability for executive leaders by using and being familiar with objective data on the performance of pupils, teachers and finances to ask the right questions. It means ensuring resources are allocated to strategic priorities and safeguarding the highest standards of financial propriety.”

The Governors' Handbook.

What kind of skills do I need?

We encourage diversity in the governing body by seeking people from all backgrounds, and experiences. However, all governors should be able to conduct themselves professionally, discreetly and diplomatically, be good at working as part of a team, and have a respect for, but not be afraid to challenge, the status quo. The most important qualities for the candidate are a knowledge of the school and the community we serve, a commitment to asking challenging questions, and the confidence to have difficult or challenging conversations in the interests of the children.

Why would I want to volunteer for this?

This is an opportunity to shape the school and our priorities, and ultimately have an impact on the education and wellbeing of current and future pupils. You will also have access to a wide range of development opportunities to develop your knowledge of governance, and gain skills and experience which may also be of use to you in your professional life.

How do I apply?

Anybody wishing to apply should please send a letter of application (500-700 words) to the school, c/o Christiaan Monden (Chair of governors), or by email to: governors@efs.oxon.sch.uk **by Monday 26th November at noon**. If you would like to discuss the role before applying please email the governors or drop by the office and speak to Mr Jackson, Headteacher or Mrs Murray, Clerk to the Governors.

Your application should briefly set out why you want to become a governor, and the skills and experiences that you think will contribute to the effective governance of the school.

What is the selection process?

Our selection will be made on the basis of your written statement. If there is more than one candidate, we will evaluate the (anonymised) written statements accompanying the applications to help us make a decision as a governing body. The governors will make their decision at their meeting on 3rd December.