



Parent Governor Vacancy

The governing board is currently recruiting for a parent governor position. There are many and varied skills that individuals can bring to governance. First and foremost, governors need to be passionate and engaged about the education and wellbeing of children at the school. People often say they are worried they don't have the specialist educational knowledge to be an effective governor, but actually there are many skills that could be useful. The governor role is often described as being a 'critical friend': it is about being inquisitive, growing an understanding of what the school's strengths and weaknesses are, a realistic view of what the opportunities and threats are, and then working with the school to see how they are addressing each of those areas and how effective it is.

What would be expected of me?

The full governing body meets once every half term on a Monday evening – generally from 7.00p.m or 7.30p.m 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 spending, 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 half an hour each half term, usually preceding the full governors' meeting. 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 and young people.

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?

Follow the application procedure laid out in the ParentMail letter. Your candidacy needs to be submitted with a statement about why you would like to be a governor and what skills you would bring.

What is the selection process?

Parent governors are voted in by the other parents at the school. If there are multiple candidates, your application statements will be sent out via ParentMail for other parents to vote for their preferred candidate. While this may seem daunting, please don't let this deter you!