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Achieving Excellence Together in a Caring Community

September 9, 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to inform you of a vacancy for the role of parent governor on our governing board.

The role of the governing board

By joining our Governing Board, you will get to see things from the school's perspective and see how the school is managed. You will also gain an in-depth understanding of how decisions are made and of the pressures on school leaders, while playing an integral part in deciding on how best to develop our school.

The school's governing board is responsible for providing strategic leadership, and creating robust accountability, oversight and assurance for the school's educational and financial performance. The board is passionate about education and committed to continuous school improvement to ensure the best possible outcomes for our pupils.

The role of a parent governor

As a parent governor, you will work as part of the Board to ensure the school and pupils have the best experience of education possible. As a parent governor, you do not represent the parents as such, but you will be especially valuable in bringing a parental perspective.

To be a parent governor you should have:

- A strong commitment to the role and to improving outcomes for children
- Enjoy working in a team, curiosity, and a willingness to learn and develop new skills
- Enjoy sharing your skills so that the governing board can deliver effective governance

At this moment, the governing board is keen to recruit those with either experience in education, Special Educational Needs and premises development/leading capital projects but other skills, including common sense and life skills are also valuable.

Expectations of governors

Governors are expected to attend a minimum of one committee meeting (usually held at 8am on Mondays or Fridays) and one Full Governing Body (usually held at 7pm in the evening) meeting per term; outside of this, they are expected to:

- Maintain confidentiality
- Commit to training
- Visit the school at least once per term (in addition to meetings)
- The term limit is a maximum of four years (you can still complete your term of office after your child/ren has/have left the school if they are in the older year groups).

Common concerns about being a governor

- **It'll take up all my time** - Governance usually requires about 6-8 hours per month, during term time only, some in the evening and some during the working day.
- **I'll be pressured by other parents to bring up certain issues** - parent governors are not delegates and do not speak 'on behalf' of the parent body. The role and responsibilities of parent governors are no different from those of the other governors
- **I'm not experienced enough because I haven't been on a board before** - school governors are the largest volunteer force in education, with around 250,000 governors in the UK; most start out with no educational or Board experience. You will be supported with robust training to enable you to become familiar with the role.
- **There'll be a better candidate, someone else will do it** – if everyone thinks this, we would have no governors! The role is really important and in need of applicants – there is currently a national vacancy rate of 10% so there are a lot of empty governor seats – you could fill one of them.

Benefits of being a governor

A role on the Governing Board is a fantastic way to positively influence the learning and lives of our children, as well as giving you the opportunity to develop your skills, both personally and professionally, in the areas of:

- Strategic planning
- Experience on a board
- Holding senior leaders to account
- Finance, and maintaining oversight of large budgets
- Human resources and performance management
- Project management
- Marketing
- Communication and teamwork
- Decision making

How to apply

If you are interested in applying for the role, please complete the candidate form attached with this letter and return to Tracy Mullins in the school office by **Wednesday 18th September**. A secret ballot will be carried out to allow the parents to select the candidate they most favour.

It is important that our Governing Body reflects our diverse school community and we encourage applications from all, regardless of background, gender, ethnicity, disability or age (as long as you are over 18).

If you have any queries about this process or would like to find out more about the role please have a word with Mrs Hall or Mrs Bell or contact Tracy Mullins in the school office.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Cathy Bell
Headteacher

Jane Templeman and Janet Carroll
Co-chairs of Governors