

## **New Parent Governors for 2019**

Following their 4 year term as Parent Governors both Susan MacFarland- Lyons and Sylvia Ullmayer are stepping down. I would like to thank them both for their immense contribution to developing the life of the school over these four years.

As a result there are vacancies for 2 new parent governors in the school. It is a fascinating and vital role.

**If you are interested please contact the school asap and I will explain the process and give you a nomination form. Please return this by May 6<sup>th</sup>. This will also all be available on our website from tomorrow morning.**

## **The Role and Responsibilities of Parent Governor**

As a parent governor you hold the unique position of having a parental viewpoint. Through your children you will have first hand experience of the curriculum and how the school is perceived from the consumers' point of view. You will be able to bring this perspective to the strategic management of the school.

A parent governor must have:

- an interest in improving the futures of all children
  - a desire to make a difference
  - a willingness to accept responsibility
  - an ability to work in a team, ask questions, listen and learn
- A parent governor is a representative and not a delegate of parents. As a parent governor you should not vote in a particular way because you have been pressed to do so by parents. Objectivity is essential. You are not there to promote the interests of your own children but all children. Parent governors are elected by other parents

and it is important to establish a rapport with the parental body that elected you, whilst continuing to maintain a strategic approach to school governance.

**An Effective Parent Governor will:**

- offer support to the Headteacher and Leadership Team
- act as a critical friend (support and accountability)
- help to decide the priorities for improving the school
- make themselves available to parents and listen to other parents' opinions and take account of them as you contribute to governors' decisions
- work in partnership with the Headteacher, Senior Leadership Team and cooperatively with other governors to raise standards and improve outcomes for all children
- prepare for meetings by reading papers beforehand
- take responsibility for their own learning and development as a governor including attending training
- attend full governing body and relevant committee meetings promptly, regularly, and for the full time
- read briefings and newsletters for governors; present a balanced view of issues representing different sections of the community
- promote the interests of the school in the wider community
- be loyal to the decisions made by the governing body
- respect the confidentiality of governing body affairs
- never promise to 'solve a problem' on their own

- never press their own child's case at the expense of others
- declare an interest and withdraw from any meeting where they, a partner or close relative or associate stands to gain, or where they are so close to a matter discussed it is difficult to be impartial
- have regard to the broader responsibilities as a governor of a public institution in regard to promoting accountability for the actions and performance of the governing body **Time commitment** It is vital that those considering standing for election ensure they have sufficient time to devote to their role as a Governor.

The Full Governing Body meets at least three times per year (once per term). The Governing Body also has two main sub-committees Resources and Curriculum, which each meet at least three times per year (once per term), and all Governors are expected to join at least one of these committees. These meetings take place on Wednesdays at the school at between 6.30 pm and 8.30pm.

Parent Governors elected at this time will join the Governing Body at their next full meeting.

- . Governors are also invited to attend school events. We wish to encourage as many parents as possible to put themselves forward for the current vacancies, however, it is essential that you fully consider whether you are able to commit sufficient time to the school to fulfill the role. All members of the Governing Body must be in a position to attend and participate in meetings, and take on the responsibilities the role entails.