

## PARENT GOVERNOR INFORMATION

### The role of the governing board

The school's governing board is responsible for providing confident and 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.

### Parent Governors

Parent governors are elected by parents of children at the school. For a person to stand for election and to vote in a parent governor election he/she must either be the natural parent of a child registered at the school, or be a person with parental responsibility for, or having care of, such a child.

If there are insufficient eligible candidates for the vacancies at an election the governing body can appoint a parent governor, but there are restrictions on who can be appointed.

Governors normally serve for four years unless a shorter term is specified in the Instrument of Government for the school. If a parent governor ceases to be the parent of a child registered at the school within the period for which they have been elected, he/she may continue to be a governor for the rest of his/her term of office.

### The role of a parent governor

As a parent governor, you'll work with the board to make sure it effectively carries out the duties referred to above. You'll also play a vital role in bringing a **parental perspective** to the governing board, but you're not there to speak 'on behalf' of the parent body.

To be a parent governor you should have:

- A strong commitment to the role and to improving outcomes for children
- Good inter-personal skills, curiosity, and a willingness to learn and develop new skills

**Parent governors** have the same rights, responsibilities and duties as other governors.

**Parent governors** should play a full and active part in the governing body but, like other governors, do not have the power to act as individuals or as a group, unless specifically authorised to do so by the governing body.

**Parent governors** are not on the governing body simply to represent the interest of parents, or to be the only link with parents because all governors must have regard to these issues.

### HOW MUCH TIME WILL IT TAKE?

To be an effective member of the governing body team, it takes time. You will need to prepare for and attend at least three full governing body meetings per year. You will also be involved in one or two committees dealing with Resources, Curriculum or Student Affairs. These usually meet at least once a term. In addition some governors take on other roles such as Special Educational Needs governor.

The amount of time you will need to give depends on how involved you become but governing bodies cannot operate effectively with passengers. You must be prepared to take more than an interest.