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Wednesday 25th April 2018

Dear Parents,

I am writing to you to draw attention to the fact we have a vacancy for Parent Governor on our school's Governing Body.

We are looking for parents who are committed and enthusiastic about supporting the school in its continuous development and objective in their views so that senior leaders are both supported and challenged. It is vital that a community school serves its community and that balanced decisions are made by different groups within the school.

WHO ARE 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. Governors normally serve for four years. 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.

WHAT ARE PARENT GOVERNORS?

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,

Parent governors, 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.

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WHAT DO GOVERNORS DO?

All maintained schools have a governing body which together with the headteacher sets the aims and policies of the school. The headteacher is responsible for the day to day management of the school. Together the governing body and headteacher must ensure the school provides good quality education and helps to raise standards.

The governing body:

- is accountable for the performance of the school to the parents and the wider community
- plans the school's future direction
- selects the headteacher
- makes decisions on the school's budget and staffing
- makes sure the National Curriculum is taught
- decides how the school can encourage pupils' spiritual, moral and cultural development
- make sure the school provides for all its pupils, including those with special educational needs.

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 one full governing body meetings per year. Full governing body meetings usually occur at 5.30pm on a week night. You will also be involved in one or two committees dealing with finance, staffing, curriculum or premises (meeting termly). 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.

The deadline for nominations is Tuesday 8th May 2018.

I hope the information included in this letter has answered any questions you have over the role of the parent governor and governors in general. Should you wish to discuss the role further, please contact me as I will be happy to discuss it with you. It is a really exciting time for our school as we are moving forward so rapidly and look forward to further strengthening our governing body.

Yours sincerely

Liz Ormerod
Headteacher