

All Saints' C of E Primary School

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Inspire Challenge Succeed

23rd October 2015

Dear Parents,

PARENT GOVERNOR: VACANCY / NOMINATIONS / ELECTIONS

Our Governing Body has a vacancy for a Parent Governor as one of our existing Parent Governor's term of office is coming to an end and although they wish to continue for a further term, the process is that the vacancy is advertised to all parents with an invitation for nominations. If there are more nominations than vacancies then elections will be held (see below).

Parent governors are elected by parents and are vital to our governing body. They share equally with other governors the responsibility for carrying out the governing body's wide range of responsibilities. Governors do not run the school day to day, as their role is at the strategic or policy-making level in the school.

Before you decide to nominate someone, or indeed stand yourself, you may want to know a bit more about what is involved.

You do not need to be an expert on education to be a school governor, but you do need an interest in the school and in the welfare of our children and the time and willingness to get involved. The skills you have can be very useful to the governing body, we are specifically looking for strategic leadership skills and financial management / budget reporting experience.

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Governors also need what is known as 'soft skills' – the ability to be able to build relationships with a range of people, to be able to work as part of a team, to be able to question, and to make connections between different types of information.

If you join our governing body, you will serve for a four year term and you can continue to the end of the term of office even if your child/children leave the school. Being a governor does take up time. There are six governing body meetings each year, and governors usually serve on a committee/committees which meet a minimum of once a term. You will need to set aside time to be able to be an effective governor: time to prepare for meetings, for visiting the school, undertaking training and updating.

Who can be a parent governor?

All those who have parental responsibility and are over the age of 18 are eligible to stand for election, including parents who work at the school provided that they work for less than 500 hours per year when they are elected.

“Parent” is defined as including “any individual who has or has had parental responsibility for, or cares or has cared for a child at this school”. It includes a person who the child lives with and who looks after the child, irrespective of what their relationship is with the child. This must be someone involved in the full-time care of the child on a settled basis.

There are some circumstances that disqualify an individual from serving as a school governor, please read the list of disqualifications: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/1034/schedule/4/made>

How to nominate yourself

To stand for election please complete the nomination form and write a brief personal statement (100 words maximum) to support your nomination. All nomination forms need to be returned to the school office by 3pm on Friday 6th November 2015. You will need to ask four parents of pupils at the school to sign the form.

- If the number of nominations is the same as or less than the number of vacancies, all candidates will be elected unopposed.
- If there are more nominations than vacancies, an election will take place.

If elections are required then the personal statements of all candidates will be typed in a standard format and circulated to all parents with ballot papers.

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Timescales

- 6th November 2015 (3pm) - Closing date and time of Nominations
- 9th November 2015 – Ballot Papers Issued (if more nominations than vacancies)
- 17th November 2015 (12 noon) – Closing date and time for return of Ballot Papers
- 17th November 2015 (3pm) – Count of Ballot Papers
- 18th November 2015 – Results announced

To find out more about what being a governor at this school is like, you can contact Stephen Lerner our Link Governor, stephenlerner@btinternet.com who will be very willing to answer any questions.

Kind regards

Clare Lamb

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