



24.09.2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTION – St John's Meads Church of England Primary School

One of our parent governors, Lydia Jourdain, has stepped down from her role. She has been a valued member of the Board of Governors for over two years and her commitment, knowledge and skills have been much appreciated.

The election for a parent governor will be held later this term. At the end of this letter there is some information about what governors do and I would like to talk to anyone who is considering applying for this role.

Volunteering as a school governor is a worthwhile and rewarding role; giving something back to support education in our community. Governors use skills they have acquired in their personal lives or professional careers and put them to good use. As a governor you will also have the opportunity to:

- improve your work skills
- receive valuable training
- gain experience of managing an educational organisation
- raise questions, discuss issues and help make decisions

As a local board of governors, we aim to ensure that a range of skills and experience continue to be represented to ensure that we remain effective in carrying out our roles and responsibilities. No previous experience of being a school governor is required as there is induction training and ongoing support

All parents* or carers of registered pupils at the school at the time of a parent governor election are eligible to become parent governors, unless they are:

- An elected member of the local authority or
- Paid to work in the school for more than 500 hours in any consecutive 12 month period (at the time of election or appointment).

* Section 576 of the Education Act 1996 defines "parent" to include: all natural parents, whether they are married or not; and any person who, although not a natural parent, has *parental responsibility* for a child or young person; and any person who, although not a natural parent, has *care* of a child or young person.

If you are interested in applying to become a parent governor please do contact me, **before Friday 2nd October**, via the school office to arrange an informal chat.

Further details about the election process will be sent out in due course.

With best wishes

Linda Caroe, Chair of Governors



What do governors do?

Governors work together as the local governing board with the Diocese of Chichester Academy Trust. Through their work, governors make sure the school provides a good quality education for all the children and that it also supports their well-being.

The day-to-day management of the school is the responsibility of the headteacher and staff. Rather than manage, governors are there to help shape the school's future direction and focus.

Governors are at the heart of how a school operates. It's important they get things right. How they do their job affects the interests of pupils, staff morale and how the school is seen by parents and others in the community. They are not there to rubber stamp decisions. Governors are responsible for how the school is performing. They have to be prepared to support and challenge their headteacher by gathering views, asking questions and deciding what's best for the pupils.

The work of governors can be divided into three main roles:

Establishing the strategic direction, by:

- Setting the vision, values, and objectives for the school;
- Upholding and developing the Christian ethos set in its Trust deed;
- Agreeing the school improvement strategy with priorities and targets;

Meeting statutory duties.

Ensuring accountability, by:

- Monitoring progress towards targets;
- Engaging with stakeholders;
- Contributing to school self-evaluation;
- Responding to Ofsted and SIAMS reports when necessary;
- Holding the Headteacher to account for the performance of the school;
- Ensuring parents and pupils are involved, consulted and informed as appropriate;
- Making relevant information available to the community;
- Ensuring the SIAMS toolkit, or the equivalent, is kept up to date.

Ensuring financial probity, by:

- Setting the budget in liaison with DCAT.
- Monitoring spending against the budget;
- Ensuring value for money is obtained;
- Ensuring risks to the organisation are managed.

The local governing board at St John's Meads holds meetings every term and governors are required to read relevant reports and background papers. Smaller groups of governors will meet for various committee meetings throughout the year. Whenever possible, governors attend school events.