

Parent governor vacancy

We have a vacancy for a parent governor to join the governing body team to support the strategic direction of the school. This is an important and exciting opportunity and for someone who can contribute fresh and stimulating ideas.

We welcome applications from all parents/carers who have a child registered at the school. We are keen to encourage those from under-represented groups to apply, such as black and minority ethnic backgrounds, in order to reflect the diversity of the pupils in our school. Areas the governing body are looking to improve are our partnerships with the community and businesses in the area. Some knowledge Law and or Finance would also strengthen the governing body. You do not need to have experience of working in education, as training is provided. Therefore, a willingness to learn is essential, as well as having the time to commit to supporting the school to develop and to act as a 'critical friend'.

If you are interested, please complete the application form attached. We have included some information about being a governor, which you should consider carefully to ensure you can commit to the role. You must ask another parent to propose and a different parent to second your nomination. Both of these people must be parents/carers of children who are currently registered at the school and not your spouse/partner.

If we receive more than two applications, the parent body will decide who will be elected. This is why we ask all applicants to complete a statement of between 150 and 200 words to support their nomination, so that parents can make an informed decision when casting their votes. You should outline why you wish to be a parent governor and what you feel you can offer the school. You may include any information which you consider relevant – whether that be your work and life experiences, or your experience as a parent.

The closing date for the return of completed applications is 9.00 am on 21st November 2016. The grounds for disqualification from governorship are on the form 'declarations for eligibility'.

If you have any questions about the role, please contact Janet Johnson Clerk to Governors: clerktogovs@PatchamHigh.org.uk

Yours sincerely

Headteacher

Chair of Governors

Being a school governor

Time commitment

The term for the elected parent governor is four years; however you can resign at any time. There are four full governing body meetings per year, which all governors are expected to attend and are usually in the evening. There are also committee meetings each term and we ask all governors to be a member of at least one of these committees. Typically a governor will also develop an area of specialism. In addition to preparatory work for meetings such as reading documents which can be lengthy, governors usually attend at least one governor day at the school or arrange to visit at other times to fulfil any monitoring requirements. Between meetings communications are usually by email and occasionally require an urgent response.

Training

You would be expected to complete the Governor Induction Programme provided by the local authority, which comprises five hours (in two short sessions or one long session) that are run regularly throughout the year, with daytime and evening choices. There are also other training courses you can attend as required and online learning modules you can undertake in your own time. The local authority also provides advice and guidance.

The governing body

Each governing body is made up of some elected members (parents and staff) and others appointed due to their skills and experience, e.g co-opted and local authority governors. Governors act collectively and contribute to the work of the governing body in working with the headteacher and senior leadership team in raising standards of achievements for all pupils.

Parent governors

Parent governors are not elected to represent all the parents as there are usually other methods for parents to make their views known but to bring the voice of a parent to the governing body.

Governor responsibilities (usually delegated to committees)

- Developing the strategic plan for the school, determining aims, policies and priorities
- Setting statutory and non-statutory targets
- Monitoring and evaluating the work of the school
- Appointing staff and ensuring the implementation of personnel procedures
- Managing the school budget
- Securing high levels of attendance and good standards of pupil behaviour
- Ensuring that all children in the school have access to a broad and balanced curriculum which is suitable to age, aptitude and ability, preparing them for adult life
- Ensuring the health and safety of pupils

Tasks include:

- Getting to know the school: its needs, strengths and areas for development
- Speaking, acting and voting in the best interests of the school
- Respecting all governing body decisions and supporting them in public
- Acting within the framework of the policies and legal requirements

What's in it for me?

- You will gain some valuable experiences that will have an impact on your personal and professional life. You will meet new people, develop teamwork skills and learn more about how schools work. You could gain experience of budget setting, interviewing for staff or developing policies. If you eventually become a chair of governors, we provide support and training to develop your leadership skills and confidence.
- Above all, you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you have made a real difference to the development of children, young people, their school and the community.

