



The Acorns Primary
& Nursery School
www.theacornsprimary.co.uk

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Executive Headteacher
Mrs Hannah Broom BA(Hons) NPQH

Tuesday 11th June 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Parent Governor Vacancy

Many of you will know our parent governor Donna Knight who has been part of the local governing board as a Parent Governor for many years now. She sits on the board as one of 2 parent governors, representing the 2 schools (Whitley Village and The Acorns) that the local Governing Body support. Each term for Governors is 2 years and at this point there is the opportunity for other people to stand for election, if they so wish.

What is a governor?

Being a school governor is a challenging but hugely rewarding role. It will give you the chance to make a real difference to young people, give something back to our local community and use and develop your skills in a board-level environment.

Schools in Academies need local governing boards that have a balance and diversity of knowledge, skills and experience to enable it to be effective. Ofsted (the national inspection body for schools) has repeatedly noted that the most effective schools demonstrate effective leadership and management - including by the local governing board.

As a parent governor you hold the unique position of having a parental viewpoint. Through the children you will have first-hand experience of the curriculum and how the school is perceived from their point of view. You will be able to bring this perspective to the strategic management of the school.

As a parent governor you do not have to vote in a particular way because you have been pressed to do so by parents. Objectivity, however, is essential. You are not there to promote the interests of your own children but all children across both the schools. Parent governors are elected by other parents and it is important to establish a rapport with the parental body that elected you, whilst continuing to maintain a strategic approach to school governance.

What do I need to be able to do?

- ✓ Support senior and middle leaders of the 2 schools
- ✓ Use your own experience of education and life beyond school to inform conversations
- ✓ Develop and utilise your skills in a board-level environment
- ✓ Make a valuable contribution to education and our communities
- ✓ Support and challenge the schools so that they improve for pupils and staff
- ✓ Bring your unique experiences, perspectives and insights into decision-making in the interests of both school communities

What do governors do?

The local governing board provides strategic leadership and accountability in schools. It has three key functions:

- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent
- Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils
- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction

Governors set the aims and objectives for the schools and agree the policies and targets for achieving those aims and objectives. They monitor and evaluate the progress the school is making and act as a source of challenge and support to the headteacher. In action, this means:

- Managing budgets and deciding how money is spent
- Engaging with pupils, staff, parents and the school communities
- On occasion, sitting on panels and making decisions about things like pupil exclusions and staff disciplinary
- Addressing a range of education issues within the schools including disadvantaged pupils, pupils with special additional needs, staff workload and teacher recruitment
- Looking at data and evidence to ask questions and have challenging conversations about the school

Governors must be prepared to adopt the Nolan principles of public life:

selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.

Governors should also be committed to their role and to young people; confident in having courageous conversations; curious with an enquiring mind; able to challenge the status quo to improve things; collaborative to build strong relationships; critical to improve their own work and that of the board; and creative in problem solving and being innovative.

What will be expected of me?

The average time commitment is five to eight hours per month, although it will vary depending on the needs of the schools. Meetings are held once per half-term, with 2 held at The Acorns, 2 at Whitley and 2 virtually. They are held on Thursdays from 5-7pm and the dates are set more than a year in advance. The commitment includes attendance at meetings, background reading and school visits.

Governance is a voluntary role and therefore it is not paid. Childminding and petrol costs are not covered.

How do I apply?

If anyone is interested and would like more information, please either e-mail the Chair of Governors, Gareth Blunden (g.blunden@acornswitley.co.uk) or pop in to see / email Mrs Broom (head@acornswitley.co.uk).

Prospective new governors have to find someone to propose and second them and return the nomination paper to the School Office by Thursday 27th June. Depending on how many nominations we get, an election may need to be held. In this instance, it is useful for parents/carers to write a brief statement about why they want to be a governor.

Each candidate must be the parent of a registered pupil at the school at the time of the election and must agree to being nominated. Each nomination must be supported by a proposer and a seconder, who may be the husband or wife of the candidate. A parent may not propose or second more than three candidates in each election. Additional copies of the nomination paper can be obtained from the school, if required.

The Acorns Primary & Nursery School and Whitley Village Primary School are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all volunteers to share this commitment. We require the successful parent to undertake an enhanced criminal records check via the Disclosure & Barring Service.

Kind regards,

Mrs H Broom

Executive Headteacher



This form must be returned to school no later than

Thursday 27th June, 12 noon

Parent Governor Elections – Nomination Paper

1. The Candidate

Surname	Forename(s)	Preferred Title
Address	Names(s) and Age(s) of Children at School	

2. Proposer and Seconder

Proposer's Signature:	
Proposer's Name:	
Address:	
Name(s) and Age(s) of Children at School:	

Seconder's Signature:	
Seconder's Name:	
Address:	
Name(s) and Age(s) of Children at School:	

3. Agreement to Nomination

I agree to stand as a candidate in the above Parent Governor election. I have written a statement regarding why I would be suitable for this, which I am aware may be shared with parents / carers at the school.

Signature: _____ Date: _____