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**Governing Body**

Parent Governor election (September 2024 start)

Thank-you for expressing an interest in this exciting role in our school. A school governor is an individual who is committed to contributing to the educational wellbeing of children. Their role requires dedication, including regular attendance at governing body meetings and active participation in school affairs, such as governor visits and attendance at school events.

Duties include setting the school's vision, aims and objectives, approving the school budget and appointing the headteacher. Governors are there to provide oversight and accountability - they do not get involved in the day-to-day management of the school.

At West Oaks School, there is an expectation that our Governors attend between 8 to 13 meetings/visits every academic year.

**Who is eligible for election?**

As there is a vacancy for a parent governor, all parents or carers of registered pupils at the school are eligible to become parent governors. There will be an election to fill the role and you have a right to stand for election.

Maintained schools:

A person cannot be a parent governor if they are:

* An elected member of the LA, or
* Paid to work in the school for more than five hundred hours in any consecutive 12-month period (at the time of election or appointment)

**Understanding the role of governor in our school**

The primary purpose of a school governor is to function as a critical friend to the school, providing support and challenge to ensure the best possible outcomes for all students. They should have a strong interest in education and a commitment to improving the school environment, educational standards, and the overall wellbeing of pupils. Each type of governor brings a unique perspective and contribution. For instance, parent governors provide insight into the parent community.

Governors are part of the school’s leadership, and, according to Ofsted’s ‘School inspection handbook,’ Ofsted inspectors make a judgement as to whether “leaders and those responsible for governance all understand their respective roles and perform these in a way that enhances the effectiveness of the school.”

**The responsibilities of a school governing body**

School governors have a wide range of responsibilities, and while specific duties may vary depending on the school, there are several core areas in which they are typically involved.

1) Strategic planning

Governors work closely with the headteacher or principal and senior leadership team to develop and review the school's strategic vision and goals. Governors agree on the school improvement plan, and they contribute to the creation of policies, oversee their implementation, and ensure that they align with the school's ethos and values. By actively participating in strategic planning, governors help shape the direction of the school and help to ensure its long-term success.

2) Performance management

Governors monitor the school's performance, including academic achievements, attendance rates, and the progress of students. They analyse data, ask challenging questions, and hold the school accountable for meeting targets and delivering high-quality education. By actively engaging in performance management, governors help identify areas for improvement and celebrate successes.

3) Financial oversight

Governors are responsible for overseeing the school's finances. They review budgets, ensure effective financial management, and make decisions regarding resource allocation to support the school's educational objectives. By actively engaging in financial oversight, governors contribute to the efficient and responsible use of resources including using a ‘best value’ approach, ensuring that the school operates within its budget and can provide the best possible education for its students.

4) School improvement

Governor’s support and challenge the school to continuously improve. They provide guidance on issues such as curriculum development, student welfare, and staff recruitment and retention. They may also participate in inspections and contribute to action plans arising from them. Ideally, governors should be involved in setting the school’s targets, such as for pupil progress and attainment, attendance, closing the disadvantaged gap etc. By actively engaging in school improvement, governors help create an environment where students can thrive and reach their full potential.

5) Stakeholder engagement

Governors act as a link between the school and its stakeholders, including parents, staff, students, and the wider community. They respond to concerns and ensure that the voice of different stakeholders is heard. By actively engaging with stakeholders, governors foster a sense of community and collaboration, building positive relationships that benefit the school and its students.

Governors are is expected to perform a myriad of tasks. These include:

monitoring the school’s budget, acting as a “critical friend” by asking pertinent questions, reviewing school policies, analysing the school’s curriculum plan and its staffing structure, scrutinising the school’s performance in various areas

**How to participate in the election**

**'ideal skills'**

We would like our parent governor to act as a critical friend and can bring their unique set of skills and a willingness to learn to the role. Ideally, we would like to appoint someone who has expertise in business or finance.

There will be induction and training available to all new governors.

There is an expectation that all parent governors serve a term of four years and as well as attending the four full governing body meetings (typically start at 4pm) you will also be part of one or two committees and visit the school at least twice a year with a “learning walk” focus.

If you are interested in joining us as a Parent Governor, please can you send us a short statement that we can publish during the election, setting out:

* Evidence that you have the skills and experience our governing board will benefit from.
* Your commitment to undertake training to become an effective governor.
* How you plan to contribute to the future work of the governing body.

Please can your short statement (one side of A4) be returned to Info@westoaksschool.co.uk by midday May 10th 2024, Good luck!

Andrew Hodkinson

Principal

West Oaks School