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**Astrea Academy Trust: Local Committee Opportunities**

Founded in 2016 to address educational inequality, Astrea Academy Trust is a charity that works through its 26 academies across South Yorkshire and Cambridgeshire, with a focus on raising aspirations and standards. We share a powerful belief that all children deserve the best chance in life and that our schools can play a central role in delivering that.

**The role of the local committee:**

Local Committee Members are volunteers, chosen for their skills, experience and local insights, to whom certain responsibilities are delegated for oversight of individual schools. Local committees are not legally responsible for the schools, so committee members are able to focus on school improvement by providing support and challenge to the Principal and the wider school leadership team and by holding them to account for meeting the ambitions of the Trust.

Since committee members are drawn from the local community and will usually include parents and staff members, their input serves an essential part in informing Trustees’ understanding of the local context.

**Expectations of parent members:**

As a committee member, you will need to commit time to prepare for, attend and actively participate in meetings (normally one per half-term) and to take part in training. You will also be expected to visit the school as a committee member – this can be a very different experience to visiting as a parent!

You will bring your parental perspective to the committee, and, through your children, you will have first-hand experience of the curriculum. As a parent member:

* You are helping to ensure that the school meets the needs of **all** its pupils, not representing individual parents or their concerns.
* Other parents may approach you with to concerns but you should not become personally involved in individual matters, as this might jeopardise formal procedures. You should guide parents about appropriate lines of action and procedures.
* You do not need to express opinions or vote in a particular way because you have been pressed to do so by other parents.
* You are not there to promote the interests of your own children but of **all** children.

All committee members serve a four-year term of office. You can complete your term of office if your child leaves the school and may resign at any time by giving notice to the Chair. Being a parent member does not disqualify you from your usual rights as a parent including making a complaint.

Like all committee members, you will need to respect the confidentiality of the committee – even if you personally disagreed with a decision, you must support the decision-making process and take responsibility for the outcome. **A commitment to the values and ethos of the Trust as well as to the Nolan Principles for Standards in Public Life is essential**.

**The appointment process:**

All parents, carers and guardians of children at the school are eligible to be candidates. If you would like to be considered, please complete the application form/send a letter and CV, if available, to the Principal before the relevant deadline. The letter should contain a short passage setting out why you would like to join the committee. Applications will be considered by Chair and Principal of the school and are likely to include a meeting with each candidate. If there are more suitable candidates than vacancies, a ballot of parents will be held.

Like all Astrea’s committee members, parent members are formally appointed by the Trust and will be required to adhere to the Code of Conduct, undergo an enhanced disclosure DBS check and make an annual Declaration of Interest.