



16 January 2024

Dear parent or carer,

Vacancy for parent governor – information from the Chair

Thank you for showing an interest in the vacancy for Parent Governor.

Becoming a school Governor does require significant commitment, but it can prove to be a very worthwhile undertaking. Governors are champions of their schools who want to ensure the very best outcomes for all children. Training and support in this role are available from a variety of local and national sources, including face-to-face and on-line learning. By becoming a school Governor, you will be joining a dedicated and enthusiastic team including parents and other community Governors.

The position of school Governor has always been an important one; it is vital to the effective running of the school and is a means of giving worthwhile service to the community. Together with the Trustees of the Castleman Academy Trust, the governing team is responsible for the management of the school's strategy, standards, development plan and policies, with specific responsibilities for the school's health and safety, safeguarding, curriculum, pupil progress and values. Local governors in the Castleman Academy Trust form the School Standards Board ("SSB"). They have a particular responsibility to get to know the school in detail in order to monitor school standards and support the Senior Leaders to ensure the very highest quality education for our children. There is a commitment in terms of time and energy; meetings are held twice a term, (on a Wednesday at 3.30pm) and a number of documents are circulated prior to this which must be read and understood and questions prepared to deepen understanding and provide constructive challenge. Whilst the commitment required of the role should not be under-estimated, the reward in terms of contribution to the school and personal 'job satisfaction' more than compensates.

As a parent governor you hold the unique position of having a parental viewpoint, however to be successful in the role of parent governor, objectivity is essential. This is not an opportunity to promote the interests of your own children; it is about being able to recognise the best course of action for all children and the school as a whole. It is a common misconception that by becoming a governor we become a spokesperson for all parents or we are able to make changes to how the school is run on a day-to-day basis. In reality, the role of a governor is a thinking and questioning role; the BFS SSB has oversight of the school's strategy, standards, development plan and policies.

I should point out that there are a number of circumstances that disqualify an individual from serving as a school Governor. One requirement is that all Governors at appointment or re-appointment should be subject to a criminal record check from the Disclosure and Barring Service. If elected, you would be asked to declare any convictions or bind-overs you

may have incurred, including any that would be regarded as “spent” under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act, 1974. Your appointment would then be confirmed once satisfactory clearance has been received.

If you are interested in pursuing this opportunity, or would like to find out more, please contact Gemma Downing our Governance Officer on 01202 129277 or at gdowning@broadstonefirst.poole.sch.uk (Tuesday to Thursday). We then ask that you complete the attached Nomination Form, and return by 9am on Wednesday 31st January to the Governance Officer, gdowning@broadstonefirst.poole.sch.uk or via the school office.

Yours sincerely,

Dan Moody
Chair of School Standards Board

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