**PARENT GOVERNOR VACANCY**

Dear Parent

We are very keen to encourage parents (or people with parental responsibility) of registered pupils to nominate themselves to fill this vacancy. To help you decide if this is the sort of role you would be interested in, or could be good at, we thought it would be useful to tell you what’s involved.

**What’s a parent governor?**

Parent governors are elected by parents. They are vital to our governing body and share equally, with other governors, the responsibility for carrying out the governing body’s wide range of responsibilities. Whilst they are parents and may have a particular view, they are not elected to be a parent representative – they must have the whole school and all children at the centre of their decisions.

**What do governors do?**

The governing body’s aim is to work closely with the Head teacher to raise standards and make sure the school provides a good quality education. We do not manage the day to day running of the school, we help shape its focus and direction. We act as watchdog, mediator and champion for the school.

**What skills do I need?**

You don’t have to be an expert on education but you do need to …

* Have an interest in the school and the welfare of our children.
* Be willing to get involved.
* Be able to work as part of a team.
* Build relationships with people.
* Make connections between different types of information and use it to make decisions.
* Act professionally and keep matters confidential when necessary.

**How much work is involved?**

Being a governor does take up time and you would need to set time aside to be an effective governor: time to prepare for meetings, for visiting the school and undertaking training.

There are 4 full governing body meetings each year, September, January, March, July (6-8pm). Governors also need to serve on a committees, as many or few as they have time for, and these meet throughout the school year and last about 1 hour.

* Pupils & learning (x2/yr)
* Finance & buildings (x2/yr)
* Personnel (x2/yr)

The majority of our current governing body are working parents and so meetings are held in the evenings to make it easier for them to attend. We try to offer as much flexibility as we can when arranging meetings to accommodate working parents and childcare arrangements.

Governors serve for up to four years and you can continue to the end of the term of office, even if your child/children leave the school. However, the four year term is not compulsory, this may be something you can only do for a couple of years, but we recommend you make a commitment for at least a year as it takes time to get to grips with the role.

If you want to know what it’s really like, this is a short testimonial written by Louise Marsden, who is the newest governor to join the team.

*My name is Louise and I have been a Church Governor at Tintwistle School since September 2014. I am very much enjoying my new role and since joining the team I have had the opportunity to feed into the school’s aims and objectives and see how they are performing.*

*My role as Governor is varied and interesting and I am currently part of the Finance and Buildings Team and I will attend my first meeting on Pupils and Learning later this month. The Governing Body is a great team to work with - everyone is friendly and helpful and they made me feel very welcome. It has been a great opportunity to get to know how a school functions and to use my skills and knowledge to ensure that the needs of the children are met.*

*It is very interesting to learn about how the school is organised and managed ‘behind the scenes’ and the Governors play a very important role in planning and informing the future of the school. A good education is vital to all our children’s futures and I consider myself very fortunate to be part of helping our children achieve their full potential and to create an excellent school for our community.*

To find out more about being a governor at our school you can contact any members of the governing body, via the school, who will be very willing to answer any questions you may have. A number of governors will be available at the forthcoming parents evening which will give you the opportunity to have a face to face discussion if that helps.

Rachael and Adam Gregson (Sam and Harriet’s parents)

Jill O’Grady (Ben and Amy’s mum)

Vicky Mullis (Freddie and Dora Entwisle’s mum)

Ros Smith (Danny and Callum’s mum)

Keith Brierley and Louise Marsden (Church Governors)

Mr Ford and Mrs Griffin (staff governor and head teacher)