

Seghill First School

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Dear Parents and Carers

Parent governor vacancies

We have a vacancy for two **parent governors** from September.

What is a governor?

Governors are the strategic leaders of our schools and have a vital role to play in making sure every child gets the best possible education. For maintained schools this is reflected in the law, which states that the purpose of maintained school governing bodies is to 'conduct the school with a view to promoting high standards of educational achievement at the school'.

In all types of schools, governing bodies should have a strong focus on three core strategic functions-

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

Governors are volunteers who work very hard and give a huge amount of time and dedication to their role. We are very fortunate to have so many passionate and committed governors at our school.

How our governing body works

Our governing body is made up of ten governors. It is led by the Chair of governors, Steph Hall. We have a number of different type of governors- parent governors, co-opted governors, local authority governors and staff governors.

Each governor attends three meetings each term. One Full Governing Body meeting per term is attended and clerked by our school support officer, Louise Gilmour. The other two Full Governing Body meetings (one in each half term) are minuted by our minute taker, Claire Gauld.

Governors regularly visit school in line with our annual planner for governor visits. They look at the work of the school and report back to the full governing body. They also attend many school functions and events. Governors support the headteacher during the recruitment and appointment of new staff.

What is a parent governor?

A parent governor carries out all of the same roles as the other different types of governor. The difference is that to be a parent governor, you must have a child in this school (Reception to Year 4).

So, what's it like being a school governor?

Well, actually, it's great! We have a group of dedicated governors who have the interests of the school at heart. It can be very satisfying as we are all involved and know what's happening. It can be very enjoyable and you will get to work with very nice people.

It is, of course, also a very important post- one that should be taken seriously. Our job is to work alongside the Headteacher to ensure that the school is the best it can be. This includes looking at school

standards, budgeting, resourcing, the building, safeguarding- just to mention a few things.

What is the time- commitment?

To a degree that is up to you, but the minimum governors do is one committee meeting half-termly and a Full Governing Body meeting termly, both no more than 2 hours in length. Each governor also has a 'link-governor' role meaning you may work with another governor or member of staff on such things as attendance, safeguarding or teaching and learning. This may take up a bit more time but it is dependent on the role. Some governors do more, some less, but each of us gives as much as we can.

I have no experience as a governor. Is this a problem?

No, not at all- we will train you, although we would welcome experienced governors as well.

What qualifications/ skills do I need?

Life experience and a willingness to make a commitment!

You also need to have a full understanding of the importance of confidentiality. As a parent governor, you need to recognise that you are working for the whole school and not just your child.

Do I need to have an educational background?

No. Whilst we welcome people who do, it is also very important that we have people with a range of skills beyond the area of education. In this way, we get different perspectives, knowledge and skills. We are particularly keen to hear from parents with skills to complement our existing team. We would encourage parents with expertise in the field of finance (such as financial planning and management, procurement and purchasing and premises and facilities management) and/or human resources to apply.

Who can apply?

Any parent or guardian of a child from Reception to Year 4 in our school can apply for the parent governor role.

What happens next?

If you are interested, firstly let Miss Chappell know. After that, I will meet with you for a chat about the role and what you can offer, and so that you can decide if it is something you would like to do. Once this is done, it will be put to other parents who get the chance to vote. In the event of more than one application, parents will be asked to vote for their preferred candidate. You will then be DBS-checked.

I hope this helps. If you would like to meet to chat through any points, please do let Miss Chappell, or myself know.

Regards,

Steph Hall
Chair of governors

Tracey Chappell
Headteacher