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Where we aspire, nurture, personalise,
engage and promote success

21st September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Parent Governor Vacancy

I am writing to let you know that we have a vacancy for a parent governor to serve on the school's Governing Body of Maplewell Hall School, we are keen to encourage parents and carers of registered pupils to nominate themselves to become part of our governing body, I will explain in a little more detail about what we do.

The Role of Governors

The role of Governor is a voluntary position. Everyone says that the role of governors is increasingly important, especially with the increasing independence of schools as well as the increased scrutiny and accountability of schools and school leaders.

As Governors we are **not** there to manage the day-to-day running of the school – that is the job of the Headteacher. We are there to do three main things:

- (1) To help set the vision and strategic direction of school;
- (2) To hold the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils;
- (3) To monitor and ensure the sound, proper and effective use of the school's financial resources

Another common way of putting the role of governors is to say that our job is to provide a healthy mix of support and challenge.

The skills and qualities needed by Governors

Recent Government guidance on appointing and electing governors says:

'All governors need a strong commitment to their role and to improving outcomes for children; the inquisitiveness to question and analyse; and the willingness to learn. They need good inter-personal skills, appropriate levels of literacy in English and sufficient numeracy skills to understand basic data.'

We have a range of backgrounds including: school, civil service and finance. We welcome nominations from all parents regardless of their experience, skills and social background.



Time Commitment

We meet as a full governing body four - five times per year. The meetings run from 4.30pm-6.30pm. In addition to the full governing body meetings, meetings, we have 4 committees; Quality of Education, Behaviours & Attitudes including Personal Development, Finance and Pay & Personnel who meet once per term. As Governors we are encouraged to come into school, usually during the school day over the course of the year, (however due to current restrictions this may not be possible). These visits usually focus on an aspect of school development. We try to attend various school events and may be called upon for other tasks such as: sitting on senior appointments panels or giving particular attention to a specific issue or policy. As well as these activities there is quite a bit to read and most importantly there is an expectation that Governors will attend training sessions in order to ensure that they are up to date on such things as: school performance data; finance; special educational needs; keeping children safe at schools etc. A comprehensive induction programme is provided. A governors term of office is for four years.

Eligibility

Anyone who has a child on the roll of the school at the time of the election is eligible to stand (and you do not have to resign if your child leaves during your term of office). If you are still interested after reading all the above, I would encourage you to consider putting yourself forward as a candidate. If you would like to speak with me about the role I can also be contacted via the school office. In addition, Mrs Mandy Paris, Clerk to the Governors would be happy to speak to any parents informally, please feel free to contact her directly at school.

Nomination Process

If you do wish to put yourself forward then you need to complete a nomination form, which is available on the school website, or which can be requested from the school office. You can nominate yourself but you will need to get someone else to add their name to your nomination and they cannot be a close relative or partner. You will need to produce a written statement of not more than 500 words in support of your nomination.

Nomination forms must be returned to the school by **Noon on Monday 5th October 2020.**

Election Process

If there are more than two candidates an election will be held and this will take place. More details will follow on this.

Background Checks

DBS checks are statutory and this role is subject to Maplewell Hall's safer recruitment process.

I hope this is helpful in helping you decide whether or not you wish to stand as a Parent Governor in order to play your part in helping Maplewell Hall not only to retain its very high standards but to be part of the school's development.

Yours sincerely



Roger Ivens
Chair of Governors