



ABBAY PARK SCHOOL

10th November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

LOCAL GOVERNOR VACANCY (PARENT)

I am writing to tell you that there is vacancy on the Local Advisory Board of Abbey Park School and to invite parents, carers or foster-parents who would like to be appointed to put their names forward.

Parent Governors are elected by and from the parents, carers and foster parents of registered pupils at the school, for a 4 year term. Parent Governors share equally with other members of the Local Advisory Board the responsibility for carrying out their legal responsibilities delegated to them by the Trust. The position has always been an important one that is vital to the effective running of the school and is a means of giving worthwhile service to the community.

Local Governors bring a wide experience of the outside world, an independent view, a focus on long term development and improvement, accountability to the community for the use of resources and the standards of teaching and learning, and support for the Operational Principal and staff.

In return, Governors gain the satisfaction of giving something back to the school community, a sense of purpose and achievement and new skills which may be useful in the workplace.

Governors are expected to attend meetings of the Local Advisory Board which take place of an evening at least 6 times a year, work as a member of the board (not as an individual) in the best interests of the school, show an interest in school activities, become well-informed about education and become familiar with the rules of governance. Training for the role is provided and governors need to commit to attending regular training events to keep their knowledge of governance up to date.

We ask that governors are able to give the school their time (approximately six hours a month), a willingness to learn, a listening ear and enquiring mind, the ability to assimilate information, make judgements and decisions and the ability to work as part of a team. A testimonial from a current parent governor has been included at the base of this letter.

If you wish to stand for election as a Parent Governor, it is necessary for you to be proposed by a parent, guardian or foster carer of a pupil registered at the school and to be seconded by another parent, carer or foster carer of a pupil registered at the school.

The proposer and seconder should indicate their support for you by signing the enclosed nomination form. All nominations should be returned to me via the school by **Tuesday 1st December 2020**.

Please also include some detail about yourself including why you would like to become a governor (no more than two hundred words) to support your nomination. This will be used if there is a need for an election by secret ballot. This will only take place if there are more nominations than there are vacancies.

There are some circumstances that disqualify an individual from serving as a School Governor and these are listed below. Please ensure that you read through these. If you require any further information about the role of a Governor please contact me at clerk@abbeyparcschool.org.uk

Yours sincerely

Stephanie Connolly
Clerk to the Local Governing Body

Below: Disqualifications
Nomination form

Parent Governor Testimonial – Mar 2020

'I became a school governor because schools need parental input as much as parents need schools to educate their children. I very much see a school parent partnership when it comes to giving our children the very best start in life.

As a Governor, I can challenge leaders and give feedback on school initiatives - often before they actually happen. For me it's a real privilege to be in this position, seeing behind the scenes at school, helping the school and its leadership to address challenges. There is also a very real responsibility as a governor to ensure the school is held accountable. Training has been provided and there is great support amongst the governors so it has never felt like a step too far.

To anyone who believes in the school parent partnership I would urge you to think about volunteering to be a governor - it offers you a great opportunity to challenge yourself in a new area and is hugely rewarding.'



Executive Principal: Mr C Zimmerman
Operational Principal: Mr G Pearson
Vice Principal: Miss S Hesten

Grange Park Way, Grange Park, Swindon, SN5 6HN
Tel: 01793 874224 Fax: 01793 876274
ask@lydiardparkacademy.org.uk

A Governor must be aged 18 or over at the time of their election or appointment. There is no upper age limit for serving as a governor. A person cannot hold more than one governorship at the same school.

A person is disqualified from holding or from continuing to hold office as a governor or associate member if he or she:

- fails to attend the governing board meetings – without the consent of the governing board – for a continuous period of six months, beginning with the date of the first meeting missed (not applicable to ex officio governors);
- is subject to a bankruptcy restriction order or an interim order, debt relief restrictions order, an interim debt relief restrictions order;
- has had their estate sequestered and the sequestration order has not been discharged, annulled or reduced;
- is subject to:
 1. a disqualification order or disqualification undertaking under the Company Directors Act 1986
 2. a disqualification order under Part 2 of the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1989
 3. a disqualification undertaking accepted under the Company Directors Disqualification (Northern Ireland) Order 2002
 4. an order made under Section 492(2) (b) of the Insolvency Act 1986 (failure to pay under a County Court administration order);
- has been removed from the office of charity trustee or trustee for a charity by the Charity Commissioners or High Court on grounds of any misconduct or mismanagement, or under Section 34 of the Charities and Trustees Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 from participating in the management or control of anybody;
- is included in the list of teachers or workers considered by the Secretary of State as unsuitable to work with children or young people;
- Is barred from any regulated activity relating to children
- Is subject to a direction of the Secretary of State under section 128 of the Education and Skills Act 2008
- is disqualified from working with children or from registering for child minding or providing day care;
- Is disqualified from being an independent school proprietor, teacher or employee by the secretary of State;
- Has been sentenced to three months or more in prison (without the option of a fine) in the five years before becoming a governor or since becoming a governor;
- has received a prison sentence of two years or more in the 20 years before becoming a governor;
- has at any time received a prison sentence of five years or more;
- has been fined for causing a nuisance or disturbance on school premises during the five years prior to or since appointment or election as a governor;
- refuses to allow an application to the Disclosure and Barring service (DBS) for a criminal records certificate.

A person is also disqualified from election or appointment as a parent governor of a school if they:

- are an elected member of the Local Authority (a Councillor).
- work at the school for more than 500 hours (i.e. for more than one third of the hours of a full time equivalent) in a school year (at the time of election or appointment).

Nomination Form

SCHOOL: _____

NOMINEE: I, (names in full) _____

of (address, including postcode) _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

would be prepared to stand as a candidate in the election for Parent Governor(s) to serve on the Local Advisory Board of the above named school. I have noted the disqualifications, none of which apply to me. I am a parent/guardian/Foster Carer of the following pupil(s) who are registered at the school:

Name/s: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Class/Form/Tutor Group: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

PROPOSED BY: (full name) _____

Parent/Guardian of: (name(s) of pupil(s)) _____

Class/Form/Tutor Group _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

SECONDED BY: (full name) _____

Parent/Guardian of: (name(s) of pupil(s)) _____

Class/Form/Tutor Group _____

Signed: _____ *Date:* _____

This form should be returned to S Connolly, Clerk to the Local Advisory Board, clerk@abbeyparkschool.org.uk by **Tuesday 1st December 2020**

The information supplied by the nominee, if they are elected, will be held by the Clerk to Governors. Although the information will be passed to Governor Support at Swindon Borough Council, who are required by law to keep a record of all Swindon school governors, it is held on a password protected database. The information will only be shared with other Council departments on a strictly necessary basis and will not be supplied to anyone outside the Council under any circumstances