



## Newnham St Peter's Church of England Primary School

Station Road, Newnham-on-Severn, Gloucestershire, GL14 1AT

Tel: 01594 516208

*'cherish everyone, flourish together, serve others'*

### Local Academy Committee

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to you to invite you to stand for election as a Parent Governor or to nominate another parent to do so. We currently have one vacancy and the term of office is four years. The vacancy arises as Miss Kerry Cox completes her term of office as Parent Governor, following four years of outstanding service.

#### **The rôle of the Local Academy Committee (formerly Governing Board)**

Local Committees have two core strategic functions:

- ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils

#### **Who can apply?**

To be able to volunteer, you need to be a parent, carer (or someone who has parental responsibility) for a child at the Newnham St Peter's. You do not need any specific qualifications. The enclosed sheet summarises the circumstances under which someone cannot serve as a Parent Governor.

To fulfil the rôle, you will need to:

- attend regular meetings (around six each year)
- visit the school twice each term
- do some background reading
- undergo a full DBS check
- take part in induction training and ongoing development (which will be provided for you)

#### **How to apply**

If you would like to apply, please complete the nomination form and return it to the school office by 4.00pm on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024. If you are putting someone else forward for nomination, please make sure they are happy for you to do so and ask them to complete the form.

If there are more nominations than vacancies, we will conduct a secret ballot. If that is necessary, voting papers and instructions will be sent to all parents and carers. Each parent/carers will have one vote (not one vote per family.)

Yours sincerely,

*V Thorpe*

Mrs Valerie Thorpe, Clerk to the Governing Board



## **Qualifications and disqualifications to serve as a maintained school governor:**

A governor must be aged 18 or over at the time of his/her election or appointment and cannot hold more than one governorship at the same school.

A person is disqualified from election or appointment as a parent governor if s/he:

- is employed at the school for more than 500 hours in any 12 consecutive months;
- is an elected member of the Local Authority.

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

- is a registered pupil at the school;
- has failed to attend Local Academy Committee meetings at the school without the consent of the Committee, for a continuous period of six months;
- has been disqualified for failing to attend Committee meetings at the school without the consent of the Committee, for a continuous period of six months whilst serving as a foundation, local authority, co-opted or partnership governor at the school in the last 12 months;
- has had his/her estate sequestrated and the sequestration has not been discharged, annulled or reduced;
- is subject to a bankruptcy restriction order, an interim bankruptcy restrictions order, a debt relief restrictions order or an interim debt relief restrictions order;
- is subject to:
  - a disqualification order or disqualification undertaking under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986;
  - a disqualification order under the Companies Directors Disqualification (Northern Ireland) Order 2002;
  - a disqualification undertaking accepted under the Company Directors Disqualification (Northern Ireland) Order 2002;
  - an order made under section 429(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 an order made by the Charity Commission or Commissioners or High Court on the grounds of any misconduct or mismanagement in the administration of the charity for which s/he was responsible; or to which s/he was privy; or to which he contributed, or he facilitated by his conduct; or
- has been removed, under section 34 of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, from being concerned in the management or control of any body;
- is included in the list of people considered by the Secretary of State as unsuitable to work with children (under section 1 of the Protection of Children Act 1999);
- is subject to a direction of the Secretary of State under section 142 of the Education Act 2002 (or any other disqualification, prohibition or restriction which takes effect as if contained in such a direction);
- is subject to a direction of the Secretary of State under section 128 of the Education and Skills Act 2008;

- is barred from regulated activity relating to children in accordance with section 3(2) of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006;
- is disqualified from working with children under sections 28, 29, or 29A of the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000;
- is disqualified from registration under Part 2 of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010 for child minding or providing day care;
- is disqualified from registration under Part 3 of the Childcare Act 2006;
- has been convicted of any offence and received a sentence of imprisonment (whether suspended or not) for a period of not less than 3 months (without the option of a fine) in the 5 years before or since becoming a governor;
- has been convicted of any offence and received a prison sentence of two and a half years or more in the 20 years before becoming a governor;
- has been convicted of any offence at any time and received a prison sentence of 5 years or more;
- has been convicted of an offence and sentenced to a fine under section 547 of EA 1996 (nuisance or disturbance on school premises) or under section 85A of the Further and Higher Education Act 1992 (nuisance or disturbance on educational premise) during the 5 years prior to or since appointment or election as a governor;
- has refused a request by the clerk to the governing body to make an application under section 113B of the Police Act 1997 for a criminal records certificate.

**Election of Parent Governor to the Governing Board of Newnham St Peter's**

Please complete this form in BLOCK CAPITALS

**Nominee name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Tel:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Nominee personal statement (maximum 250 words):**

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I confirm (i) that I am willing to stand for election as a Parent Governor and (ii) that I am not disqualified from holding office for any of the reasons set out in the qualifications and disqualifications sheet.

**Nominee signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

If you are proposing the above candidate for nomination, please provide:

**Proposer name and contact details:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Please return completed nomination forms to the School Office by 4.00pm on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024.**

## ***Examples of parental statements***

I am a 33 year old father of two and my eldest son is currently in the reception class. I work as a Network Traffic Control Engineer for the County Council and would like to become a parent governor just as my mother was at each of the schools which I attended as a child.

I have no previous experience as a governor nor have I worked within the education system, which is why if I am fortunate enough to become elected as parent governor, I feel that I can cast an independent eye over the workings of the school and bring a fresh perspective to the work of the existing governors.

Just like every other parent at our Primary School, I want the very best for my children. I want them to be happy, confident and become the very best they can be. As parents we need to support the school but when necessary we should also put the school under tough scrutiny. I am not afraid to ask difficult questions and I am used to speaking out and up for what is most important. Frankly there is nothing more important than our children.

Our Primary School is already a super local school and just like everyone else, I want it to continue to succeed and improve further. The rôle of parent governor is a vastly responsible one and I would like an inside look at how things work and a chance to make a difference as well.

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*I'd like to become a parent governor because I am already well involved in school life and I'd like to provide more support to the school and staff as they work hard to give all of our kids a good educational start. My two boys are in year 1 and reception; you might have seen us cycling to school.*

*I've been a company director since 2008, having founded two language education businesses. The second specialises in social and online learning. This has led me to become an active part of a global network of online educators. They help me to continue my learning about two of the things I am extremely passionate about, education and technology.*

*I'm always happy to have a chat so if you see me around and want to ask me anything prior to the election, feel free.*

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I believe that the first years of a child's education are crucial to their later academic achievements and – just as importantly – to the development of social and other life skills. Obviously, teachers and teaching assistants are at the frontline of this work, but Governors work in the background, to support staff as they implement (ever changing!) government policy in circumstances where stretching resources is often a challenge. To some extent, the Governors also hold the school leadership team 'to account' as they make strategic decisions about the future direction of the school. This means they must have a good working knowledge of the school, understanding both its strengths and where there may be room for improvement.

Parent governors are part of the Committee mix, along with teachers, other staff and community representatives. While the Committee can act only as unit, I believe that parent governors have a special rôle, and should always try to assess issues and decisions from the point of view of parents/carers and families. This is not the same as representing individual parent's points of view – it is about making sure that parent/carer perspectives (however diverse) are always considered.

I feel passionately about primary school education. If elected I would work with energy and enthusiasm to help our school maintain its high standards, and meet future challenges. I feel I understand the requirements of the rôle, and, as I am at the school gates daily, hope that I would be approachable and accessible to other parents. I would be privileged to represent parents and carers in this way.

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