

Dear Parents and Carers,

Griffe Field is currently looking for two Parent governors to join the school's governing body.

The role of the governing body

The school's governors are responsible for providing confident and strategic leadership, and creating robust accountability, oversight and assurance for the school's educational and financial performance. We are passionate about education and committed to continuous school improvement to ensure the best possible outcomes for our pupils.

The role of a parent governor

No special qualifications are needed and the most important thing is to have a keen interest in the school and be prepared to play an active part in the governing body's work. However, we would particularly welcome nominations from parents with a financial background. Training is available for all governors and there is an expectation that those new to being a governor, attend free induction training.

A diverse governing board will help children from all backgrounds to succeed and thrive – it allows us to create a culture of inclusion, challenge barriers, biases and stereotypes, and provide a wide range of role models for our pupils. We encourage all parents and carers, regardless of age, experience and background, to apply for the role.

Why become a governor?

By volunteering as a school governor, you can make a real difference to the lives of our children and ensure every child receives the education they deserve. Your voice can influence important decisions for the school, such as how funding is spent, and affect how the school is run. As a parent governor you'll also play a vital role in ensuring that governors are connected with, and aware of the views of, parents and the local community

Dedicating your time

We try to keep meetings to a minimum and make sure every minute spent as a governor is worthwhile. Don't worry, you won't be asked to come in every week – we hold just six full governing body meetings a year. Meetings are held at the school on a Thursday and usually begin at 7:00pm until 9:00pm. A Business & Management or Teaching and Learning committee meeting is held prior to each full meeting on an alternating basis (3 of each) starting at 6:15pm. As a governor you would be expected to be on one of the committees. There is some preparation to do in advance of the meetings. You will also have the opportunity to take part in pre-planned visits during the school day occasionally, so you have first-hand experience of the school in operation. The term of office is 4 years. Governors may resign at any time during this term.

Governors will be subject to a Disclosure and Barring Service Check and will be required to complete a Disqualification by Association and Pecuniary Information form. Please note that there are certain restrictions which prevent a person becoming a Governor, for example:

- People who are bankrupt may not serve as Governors, nor may people who have in the previous five years been sentenced to three months or more in prison without the option of a fine, people who have been sentenced to a period of more than two and a half years of imprisonment may not stand within twenty years of that conviction and anyone who has been sentenced to a period of imprisonment of five years or more is totally disqualified.
- People who are disqualified from working with children may not hold office as a Governor.
- Parents/carers who have paid employment in the school are not eligible to stand in these elections.
- Nominations must be from parents or carers with children at the school on the day that nominations close.

What's next?

If you are interested in becoming a governor or would like further information we are holding a Coffee/tea drop in session in school on **Friday 12th November 2021 at 2:45pm**. Governors will be present to answer any questions you may have.

If you decide that this is something you would like to pursue please email a short personal statement to support your nomination (which should be no longer than 250 words) to Karen Phillips (kp63phillips@gmail.com). Alternatively, drop off a paper version to the school office.

The deadline for applications is 12 noon on Friday 19th November 2021.

If there are more nominations than vacancies, there will need to be an election which will be by secret ballot. Your personal statement will be sent to all parents together with details of the ballot procedure.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Kind Regards,

Karen Phillips
Clerk to Governors