

## **Parent governor election and appointment**

We now have a vacancy for a Parent Governor and are inviting nominations. You can nominate yourself or another parent by completing one of these [forms](#) and handing them into Reception by the deadline of Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February at 12pm. Printed forms are available at Reception.

These rules apply to all maintained community schools, including nursery schools, community special schools and voluntary aided schools.

Parent governors are elected by other parents at the school. Any parent, or carer, of a registered pupil at the school at the time of election is eligible to stand for election as a parent governor. Parent governors may continue to hold office until the end of their term of office even if their child leaves the school.

Schools must make every reasonable effort to fill parent governor vacancies through elections.

### **The election of parent governors**

The Local Authority is responsible for the organisation of parent governor elections and any enquiry or dispute shall be dealt with and, if necessary, determined by the Strategic Director Children's Services.

Responsibility for the conduct of parent governor elections in individual schools is delegated to the Headteacher, as Returning Officer, and elections shall be conducted in accordance with the procedures agreed by the Local Authority and set out in this document. The Headteacher may be assisted by the clerk or another suitable person.

1. [The School Governance \(Constitution\)\(England\) Regulations 2012](#) state that a "parent governor" is

1. a person who is elected as a governor by parents of registered pupils at the school and who is a parent at the time of election, or
2. a person appointed as a parent governor.

## **2 Definition of Parent**

### **2.1 Section 576 of the Education Act 1996 defines a parent as:**

- all natural (or adoptive) parents, whether they are married or not;
- any person who, although not a natural parent, has parental responsibility (as defined in Children Act 1989) for a child or young person
- any person who, although not a natural parent, has care of a child or young person.

**Having care of a child means that a person with whom a child lives and who looks after the child, irrespective of what their relationship with the child is, is considered to be a parent in education law.**

**Further information can be found on**

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/56/section/576>

### **3 Eligibility to stand for election as a parent governor and to participate in Parent Governor elections**

**3.1 Anyone who is the parent of a registered pupil at the school and who is not disqualified from holding office (see 3.2) is eligible to stand for election as a parent governor.**

2. A person is disqualified from election or appointment as a parent governor of a school if they are an elected member of the Local Authority or if they are paid to work at the school for more than 500 hours (i.e. more than one third of the hours of a full time equivalent) in any consecutive twelve-month period (at the time of election or appointment).
3. A person is not disqualified from continuing to hold office as a parent governor when they cease to be a parent of a registered pupil at the school.

**3.4 Anyone who is a parent of a registered pupil at the school may nominate themselves or propose candidates for election and may vote in the elections.**

**3.5 Each parent shall have one vote per vacancy, regardless of the number of children they have in the school. Schools must make every effort to ensure that each parent receives only one nomination and ballot paper regardless of how many children they have on roll at the school.**

#### **Governor qualification and disqualification criteria**

The following summarises the qualification and disqualification regulations which can be seen in full in, the constitution of governing bodies of maintained schools August 2017 ([statutory guidance](#))

A governor must be aged 18 or over at the time of their election or appointment.

A registered pupil of the school cannot be a governor.

A person is disqualified from holding or continuing to hold office as a governor of a school if, in summary, that person:

- failed to attend the meetings of the governing body of that school for a continuous period of six months, beginning with the date of the first meeting they

failed to attend, without the consent of the governing body. This does not apply to the Headteacher or to foundation governors appointed by virtue of their office

- A foundation, local authority, co-opted or partnership governor at the school who is disqualified for failing to attend meetings is only disqualified from being a governor of any category at the school during the twelve-month period starting on the date on which they were disqualified
- is the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order; an interim bankruptcy restrictions order; debt relief restrictions order; an interim debt relief restrictions order; or their estate has been sequestrated and the sequestration has not been discharged, annulled or reduced
- is subject to a disqualification order or disqualification undertaking under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986; a disqualification order under the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 2002; a disqualification undertaking accepted under the Company Directors Disqualification (Northern Ireland) Order 2002; or an order made under section 429(2)(b) of the Insolvency Act 1986 (failure to pay under county court administration order)
- has been removed from the office of trustee for a charity by an order made by the Charity Commission or Commissioners or High Court on grounds of any misconduct or mismanagement in the administration of the charity, or under section 34 of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 from being concerned in the management or control of any body
- has been removed from office as an elected governor within the last five years.
- is included in the list of people 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 142 of the Education Act 2002 or 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
- subject to certain exceptions for overseas offences that do not correlate with a UK offence, has been sentenced to three months or more in prison (without the option of a fine) in the five years ending with the date preceding the date of appointment/election as a governor or since becoming a governor

- subject to certain exceptions for overseas offences that do not correlate with a UK offence, has received a prison sentence of two and a half years or more in the 20 years ending with the date preceding the date of appointment/election as a governor
- subject to certain exceptions for overseas offences that do not correlate with a UK offence, has at any time received a prison sentence of five years or more
- has been convicted and fined for causing a nuisance or disturbance on school or educational premises during the five years ending with the date immediately preceding appointment/election or since appointment or election as a governor
- refuses a request by the clerk to make an application to the Disclosure and Barring Service for a criminal records certificate.

Anyone proposed or serving as a governor who is disqualified for one of these reasons must notify the clerk to the governing body.