



# The Whitby Secondary Partnership

A Quality First Partnership for Whitby

Executive Head Teacher: Jamie Henshaw

Dear Parent/Carers

## PARENT/CARERS GOVERNOR VACANCY

I am writing to let you know that there is a parent governor vacancy on The Whitby Secondary Partnership governing body. The governing body, with the Executive head teacher, has overall responsibility for the running of the schools within the partnership. The three core functions for all boards are:

- to ensure that the school has a clear vision, ethos and strategic direction
- to hold the head teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils
- to oversee the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

You do not need any specific qualifications to be a governor. The most important thing is that you are interested in the success of the school and are prepared to play an active part in the work of the governing body. Parent governors are valued members of the team. An effective body will have a range of skills, and we would welcome nominations from parents with knowledge and experience in the field of HR, IT or Education.

There are some circumstances under which someone cannot serve as a governor and these are detailed on the further information sheet attached to this letter. Training and support will be available to help you develop into the role. This will include in-house mentoring and support as well as access to external governor training. If you feel you can help in this capacity please email [governorvacancy@wsp.org.uk](mailto:governorvacancy@wsp.org.uk) for a nomination form which will need to be completed and returned to the school at the same email address by 4.00pm on Wednesday 14 December 2022.

You should be aware that successful candidates will be required to:

- undergo a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check
- sign a governors' Code of Conduct
- provide details of relevant business and financial interests
- agree to the publication of some details on the school website and on the Get Information about schools service.

If there are more applications than vacancies, an election will need to be held. Should this be the case, you will be contacted again with details of how you can vote and information about the candidates standing for election.

Further information about governors and the work they do can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/local-authority-maintained-schools-governance>.

If you would like to know more about the role of a governor in our partnership please contact Jamie Henshaw, Executive Head Teacher who would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Yours sincerely

Jamie Henshaw, Executive Head Teacher

## FURTHER INFORMATION

### **Eligibility**

To be eligible to stand for election as a parent governor you must have parental responsibility for, or care for, a child or young person registered at the school on the date of the election. This date is deemed to be the closing date for the receipt of nominations, or the date on which the governor position becomes vacant, if elections are being carried out in advance.

### **Disqualification**

A parent is disqualified from standing for selection if they are:

- an elected member of the local authority
- paid to work at the school for more than 500 hours in any consecutive 12 month period
- subject to any of the disqualifications under the School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2012. Full details will be supplied with the nomination papers.

### **Term of office**

The standard term of office is 4 years from the date of appointment. Parent governors may continue to serve their full term of office even if their child leaves the school.

### **The role of the parent governor**

The role of the parent governor is not as a spokesperson for the views of parents. They are the same as any other governor on the board, providing a 'parental viewpoint' ie representative parents rather than representatives of parents.

### **Can you be removed from the role?**

There are some circumstances where governors can be removed from their role. These include repeated non-attendance at meetings; and behaviours not in accordance with the code of conduct.

### **Frequency of meetings and time commitment required**

Governor meetings are held six times a year, they usually take place in the evening and can last for 2 hours at a time. A part of the role is also to be linked to a specific area within the school strategic planning and to meet with leaders and make scheduled visits to the school to discuss plans and developments.