

February 2018

Dear Parents and Carers



FITZHARRYS SCHOOL

**Re: Fitzharrys School Governing body - Parent Governor Vacancies**

We currently have a vacancy for a Parent Governor to join our Governing body and must hold an election.

Parent Governors are a vital part of the Governing body at Fitzharrys and are particularly important at this time as Fitzharrys moves towards academy status as part of Abingdon Learning Trust. They ensure that your views are represented on the Governing body, helping us understand and respond to the concerns and issues that are important to you.

Parents or anyone who has parental responsibility\* for a pupil on the school roll at the time of the election can nominate themselves or another parent to stand for this position which presents an exciting opportunity for anyone interested in helping to further improve the future for all students at our increasingly successful school.

As a Parent Governor you will be part of a team that works in partnership with the headteacher to raise standards, promote the school in our community and ensure that Fitzharrys offers our students opportunities to succeed.

The key requirements for the role are enthusiasm, energy and a commitment to get involved. Training, including an induction course for new governors, is available to help build knowledge and confidence.

If you would like to know more please visit our website (<http://www.fitzharrys.oxon.sch.uk/>), or contact the clerk to governors, Mr Rob Barron ([rbarron@fitzharrys.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:rbarron@fitzharrys.oxon.sch.uk)) to find out what is involved, or to arrange to speak to a parent governor.

**Please think about becoming a governor, or suggesting someone who will do it well. We need committed parent governors to make the governing body as effective as it can be.**

Nominations should be returned by 21<sup>st</sup> February 2018 to the school office, or you can express your interest by email to the clerk [rbarron@fitzharrys.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:rbarron@fitzharrys.oxon.sch.uk). You can nominate yourself or another parent, but please note that every nomination must be signed by the candidate, stating that they are willing to stand. An election will only be required if we receive more nominations than there are vacancies.

If we need to hold an election we will send the ballot forms with the names of the candidates and their details home with the children by 28<sup>th</sup> February 2018. Please watch out for the letter!

Yours faithfully

Tim Healy, Chair of Governors

Jonathan Dennett, Headteacher

Election for a parent governor for Fitzharrys Secondary School		
Full Name: _____		
Address: _____		
Children in Year(s): _____		
<b>I am willing and eligible to stand for election as a parent governor at (School).</b> <b>I confirm that I am able to fulfill the role including by attending meetings as required.</b> <i>(Please ensure that you have read the rules regarding the eligibility to become a governor which you should have received with this nomination form* / **).</i>		
Signed: _____		Date: _____

Please see overleaf for the \*definition of a parent and \*\*qualifications and disqualifications for school governors.

## **DEFINITION OF A PARENT**

(The Education Act 1996: Section 576 defines "Parent" to include):

- ◆ all natural parents, whether they are married or not; and
- ◆ any person who, although not a natural parent, has parental responsibility for a child or young person; and any person who, although not a natural parent, has care of a child or young person

(The Education Act 1996: Section 576 (1), (3) and (4), read together with the Education Act 2002: Section 212(2), gives a definition of "parent" )

- ◆ "Parent" is defined for the purposes of the Constitution Regulations as including "any individual who has or has had parental responsibility for, or cares or has cared for, a child or young person under the age of 18".
- ◆ It includes a person who the child lives with and who looks after the child, irrespective of what their relationship is with the child. The reference in the definition must be to someone involved in the full-time care of the child on a settled basis.
- ◆ Parents who work at the school for 500 hours or more in any twelve month period – in practice this means any parent who is paid to work more than 12.5 hours per week at the school - are not eligible to be parent governors but they are eligible to vote in parent governor elections.

## **QUALIFICATIONS AND DISQUALIFICATIONS Governors and Associate Members**

Schedule 6 of the Constitution Regulations covers the qualifications and disqualifications of governors.

- A governor must be aged 18 or over at the time of his or her election or appointment and cannot be a registered pupil at the school. This does not relate to associate members.
- 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 body meetings – without the consent of the governing body – 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, an interim bankruptcy restriction order, a debt relief order or an interim debt relief order;
- has had his or her estate sequestrated and the sequestration order has not been discharged, annulled or reduced;
- is subject to:
  - i) a disqualification order or disqualification undertaking under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986
  - ii) a disqualification order under Part 2 of the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1989
  - iii) a disqualification undertaking accepted under the Company Directors Disqualification (Northern Ireland) Order 2002
  - iv) 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 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 people considered by the Secretary of State as unsuitable to work with children;
- is disqualified from working with children or subject to a direction under Section 142 of the Education Act 2002;
- is disqualified from registration for childminding or providing day care;
- is disqualified from registration under Part 3 of the Childcare Act 2006;
- has received a sentence of imprisonment (whether suspended or not) for a period of not less than three months (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-and-a-half 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) - formerly the Criminal Records Bureau- for an appropriate DBS check.

A governor must not also be a clerk to the governing body at which he or she is a governor.

For further details of the relevant legislation please contact the Clerk to the Governors, Mr R Barron (rbar3559@fitzharrys.oxon.sch.uk).