

September 2020



Dear Parents and Carers

**Re: Fitzharrys School Parent Governor Vacancy**

This is a formal notification to parents and carers that the school has a vacancy for a Parent Governor.

Parent governors are appointed by ballot of the parent body, or in the event of there being no more candidates than positions, they are considered appointed. We do have a strong candidate for this role, and in the event that there are no other nominations they will be considered elected on the closing date for nominations – 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

A full definition of who is entitled to be a Parent Governor is set out at the end of this letter. If you would like to be considered please complete and return the attached self-nomination form preferably by email, to [clerk@abingdonlearningtrust.org](mailto:clerk@abingdonlearningtrust.org) or to the school reception by 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020. Alternatively, if you would be interested in becoming a governor at some point in the future, please feel free to use the nomination form to notify the Clerk of your interest. We would be particularly interested to hear from you if you have previous experience of governance and/or data analysis in an education context.

If you would like to know more please visit our website (<http://www.fitzharrys.oxon.sch.uk/>) for further information or contact the clerk to governors, Mr Rob Barron ([clerk@abingdonlearningtrust.org](mailto:clerk@abingdonlearningtrust.org)). We can also arrange the opportunity to speak to someone with experience of being a governor.

If we need to hold an election, we will send out the ballot forms with the names of the candidates and their details as soon as possible after 7<sup>th</sup> September.

Yours faithfully

Mark Hindley, Chair of Governors

Will Speke, Head of School

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 ([clerk@abingdonlearningtrust.org](mailto:clerk@abingdonlearningtrust.org)).