



**Redwood Drive
Hemel Hempstead
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17th September 2020

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTIONS

Governors at Tudor Primary School are dedicated to supporting and contributing to the school to secure its mission and sustain its ethos. They do this within a framework of trust, respect and shared values. They are an aspirational and cohesive team, committed to ensuring they have the complementary skills and knowledge base to discharge the responsibilities of a modern day Board of Governors. Our role is diverse including anything from appointing the new Headteacher to contributing to strategic discussions which set clear and ambitious strategic priorities and targets for the school and holding the senior leaders to account by the monitoring the school's performance.

We need parents of pupils registered at the school to make a difference by volunteering to become parent governors. Currently we have one vacancy for a parent governor on our governing board and we are seeking skilled and motivated volunteers, who are committed to improving education and to making a positive contribution to the education of our pupils, to apply to join us.

Your voice as a parent is very important to our school and it is vital that the governing board has good representation of parents among its membership.

Information about the role

Once elected or appointed for a term of four years, a parent governor takes on the role of a school governor, a public volunteer. All governors are equal; no category of governor is any more important or influential than any other. Parent governors exercise a strategic parental voice on the governing board.

We are seeking parents who have a real willingness to help, who can listen carefully, read important documents, ask questions, attend training and be able to actively contribute at meetings. If you can spare approximately ten hours or more a term then please consider nominating yourself for this special voluntary role.

The governing board is particularly seeking applicants with the following skills:

- Enthusiasm, time and commitment.
- Your local knowledge will be valuable: you will have a feel for what is important to people.
- Any professional or other skills you may have will be very helpful.
- An openness to learning and change, and wanting to make a difference.
- Objectivity in debate and decision-making that can add further to school matters.

What are the benefits?

- Being a school governor is an important and rewarding roleserving the community.
- The knowledge that you have will play a part in improving local children's education and support the school's staff in preserving the ethos and aims of Tudor Primary School.
- A chance to develop new skills, to practice and strengthen existing ones.
- The opportunity to work as part of a team to make a real difference.
- The opportunity to meet new people from all walks of life whom you probably would not have otherwise encountered.
- Knowing that the decisions you collectively make will have a huge impact on children's lives.
- Personal development and being part of a modern day governance team.

If you are interested in volunteering, here's what you should do:

1) Please check that you are eligible to stand as a parent governor. The definition of "parent" includes:

- 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

- "Parent" is defined 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.

There are some criteria, which can disqualify you from serving as any type of governor. This list is given in the nomination form. If you are applying, then you must confirm that you are not disqualified by those criteria.

2) Please nominate yourself by completing the nomination form which is accessible via the school website or the school office.

3) Please ensure that your completed nomination form is returned to the school by **3pm on Wednesday 30th September 2020**.

What happens after the nomination deadline has passed?

Any nominations received after the deadline will not be accepted.

If the school receives more nominations than there are vacancies, then we will hold an election and parents will be asked to take part in a secret ballot to vote for the candidate(s) they feel would be most suitable as a parent governor.

The information you supply as part of your nomination will be circulated to parents to help them decide who to vote for. Your personal contact details will not be distributed. This is for governing board purposes only.

If the school receives the same amount of nominations as there are vacancies, then those nominees are deemed to be 'elected unopposed' and become parent governors without the need for an election.

If no parents nominate themselves by the deadline given above, then the governing board become responsible for appointing parent governors to fill the vacancies. If they can't find volunteers at our school then they may seek parent volunteers from other schools.

If an election needs to take place then I will inform all nominees personally, and all parents in writing, providing the details of how to vote and the deadline for doing so.

If you would like to meet with current members of the Governing Board to gain a deeper understanding of the role of Governor and to ask questions please do not hesitate to let me know.

Yours faithfully



Mr Rob Weightman
Headteacher

Attachments - Parent Governor Nomination Form available via Tudor website and/ or school office