Dear Parents and Carers,

We have a vacancy for a Parent Governor. We are very keen to get this position filled as soon as possible. Please email your details (your name, contact number and your child’s name) to chairofgovernors@buckingham.richmond.sch.uk by 12.00 noon on Monday 18th November 2019, or leave this information with the school office, if you wish to take up this post.

Below are a few questions and answers on becoming a governor. I hope you will find the information useful in considering whether to stand as a parent governor.

**Becoming a school governor**
There are lots of ways in which you can donate expertise to Buckingham Primary School, but one of the most important and responsible roles, which also involves the greatest commitment, is becoming a governor.

**What do school governors do?**
The role of governor is an extremely important one and carries both responsibilities and obligations. The primary task of the Governing Body is the overall stewardship of the school and it must make its decisions only in accordance with the best interest of the school and its students and not any other particular interest group. A parent governor therefore, whilst bringing a parent’s view, does not represent parents. Similarly, the staff governors do not represent the staff. All governors, however appointed or elected, are equal in voting status.

School governors are a team of people who work closely with the head teacher to make key decisions vital to the successful running of the school. The governors appoint the head teacher and make decisions that directly affect the education and well-being of the children. They play an important role in improving standards throughout the school and agreeing the school’s budget.

**How do I become a parent governor?**
You can be elected as a parent governor by the parents and carers of Buckingham Primary School.

**What do I have to offer?**
As a parent governor, you can make a valuable contribution to the running of the school. You will be able to offer your enthusiasm and commitment and as a parent, you'll understand other parent and carer concerns.

**What will I get out of it?**
Being a parent governor can be a rewarding experience. You will be playing an important part in improving the children's education and supporting the school's staff. Giving a lot to the school and the community usually means you will get a lot back. Being a governor is also an opportunity to develop new skills or practise existing ones that can help you in your day job, like chairing meetings, putting forward suggestions, asking the right questions, speaking in public, appointing staff and helping other members who are new to the job or have less experience of committee work. There are a whole range of courses that governors can attend free of charge, to gain all the knowledge that they may need to fulfil their role.
How much time does it take?
The time that governors are able to give to the role varies. Here at Buckingham Primary:
  • the governing body meets once every half term
  • governors are asked to serve on at least one committee which also meets once every half term
  • committee meetings are mainly held during the early evenings although this can be changed to fit around the schedules of other governors and the Full Governing Body meets in the evening,
  • governors will have to prepare for meetings and there can be a lot of papers to read
  • if you are not able to prepare for and attend meetings you will not be able to make an effective contribution.

I would encourage you to look at this opportunity as it is a truly rewarding role.

Should you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me (via the school) or Ms Boyle, Headteacher. We would be happy to answer any further queries.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes

Yours sincerely

Mrs Heena Sachdeva
Chair of Governors
BUCKINGHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL