**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT BECOMING A PARENT/CARER GOVERNOR**

***What does the LGB do?***

The Local Governing Board is responsible for the strategic oversight of the school within powers delegated to it by the Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) Board of Trustees. The day-to-day operation of the school remains the responsibility of the Executive Headteacher and Headteacher of the school. The LGB takes on responsibility for monitoring the delivery of excellent educational standards and progress towards the schools improvement priorities.

***Who can be a parent / carer governor?***

The Local Governing Board (LGB) has eight members – two elected parent/carer governors, two staff governors, the headteacher and four co-opted governors. Parent / carer governors must be over 18 and have a child at the school at the time of their nomination. Parents who are employed by the school are not entitled to apply to become a parent governor but are entitled to apply for staff governor positions when they arise. A parent/carer governor on the LGB is a representative parent or carer who brings the perspective of a “consumer” of the school’s services but is *not* a representative of parents / carers. There are no specific, educational or professional qualifications required for the role of governor. You do not need to be an expert in education, but you do need to be personally committed to the school and willing to learn and be trained. We welcome applications from any parent and seek to have a governing body which is representative of our parent body.

A key role of governors is holding the management team to account robustly and effectively and for this it is important that governors have a questioning mind and are diplomatic. You will also need to be enthusiastic and a good team player. It is important that our LGB can demonstrate skills, understanding and knowledge about the school and so we are committed to training and continued professional development alongside sharing existing skills with the LGB. All roles are voluntary (not paid)

***What does being a parent / carer governor entail?***

Parent / carer governors need to commit to attending approximately two evening meetings per term. (usually starting at 6.30pm). A number of documents are circulated in advance of these meetings and governors read and review these papers before the meetings in their own time. It is also important to recognise that good governance extends beyond attending meetings and governors will need to volunteer to follow up on specific tasks such as reviewing the school Accident Book or arranging to meet with a member of staff to gain further understanding of a particular area of school improvement. In addition, governors will be asked from time to time to join an attendance, exclusion or complaint panel or take on more individual roles such becoming a Link Governor for a particular area of school improvement.

***What training and support is available?***

New governors will benefit from a carefully thought-out induction programme. You will receive a welcome and introduction from the Chair of the LGB, a tour of the school by the Headteacher and you will be paired with an existing or recent governor for the first six months so that there will always be someone to who you can direct questions informally.

You will be asked to attend training for new governors, provided by Wandsworth Council’s Governor Services and we will encourage you to attend at least one training event annually thereafter, which will be tailored to your interests and matched to the needs of the LGB.

If you would like to read more about the role of school governors in the UK education system please visit:<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/788234/governance_handbook_2019.pdf>

***Why become a governor?***

Effective parent/carer governors will find working alongside the other members of the governing board both interesting and rewarding. In the past governors have told us that they have valued the opportunity to ‘give back’ to the school as an expression of their appreciation for the education and experiences from which their children have benefitted. Parents and carers thinking of returning to work after a career break or wanting to take their career in a new direction have found governing body membership a helpful way to refresh and enhance their skills and provide up-to-date evidence of strategic leadership and Board-level operation for their CV. For other governors serving on an LGB is an opportunity to gain new experience and knowledge of the education sector and a unique chance to work alongside people from different backgrounds and with different personal and professional skills.

***How do I apply?***

When a parent / carer governor position becomes available the vacancy is advertised by the school and on the school’s website. Parents and carers can nominate themselves for election and need to complete a nomination form which asks for brief details, a photograph, plus a short paragraph about why you want to be a governor and what knowledge/skills you bring to the LGB.

In the event that there are more nominations than posts available, there is an election in which every parent and carer at the school has one vote.

A nomination form is available to download here online and is also available to collect from the school office.

If you are interested in finding out more about being a governor at Belleville please don’t hesitate to contact Kate Amis via the school office