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Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Parent Governor Vacancy**

We have a vacancy on our Governing Board for a Parent Governor who would serve a four-year term of office. Any parent of a child attending this academy in Reception to Year 6 is eligible to be a Parent Governor. The term parent includes a parent, a guardian and every person who has the legal custody of a registered pupil.

Parent governors are elected by and from the parents of children currently attending our school. They are welcomed as valued members of the team and play a vital role in ensuring the governing body is aware of the views of parents and the local community. It is also important to note that parent governors are a representative, and not a delegate of parents, and therefore need to establish a rapport with the parental body that elect them by making themselves available to parents, listening to other parents' opinions and taking account of them when contributing to governors' decisions making.

The role of the governor has changed enormously over the past few years and indications are that it will continue to change rapidly over the forthcoming years too. Our governing body has an extremely important role in the development of Woodlands Academy of Learning. The governing body's main tasks are:

- to ensure that the school has a clear vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- to monitor, review and evaluate the performance of the school and to work in partnership with the headteacher, senior leadership team and other governors to agree the priorities for raising standards and improving outcomes for all children;
- to oversee the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

As a governor of Woodlands Academy of Learning you will be expected to have enthusiasm to learn; to act as an ambassador for the school and take an active part in the strategic organisation of the school – this may involve putting your own parental interests to one side.

Governors need not be experts in the field of education. What they do need is an interest in the school and in the welfare of our children and the time and willingness to get involved. The skills you have can be very useful to the governing body.

Governors also need 'soft skills' – such as the ability to work as part of a team, to be able to question and to make connections between different types of information.

Our governing body expects governors to -

- work co-operatively with other governors;
- attend the four meetings of the full governing body held during the school year;
- sit on either the Curriculum and Standards Committee or the Finance, Staffing and Buildings Committee and attend the meetings - which are at least once a term;
- take responsibility for an area of school development in the role of a Link Governor - meeting with parallel staff and reporting back to the governing body at least once each year;
- get to know the school well and respond to opportunities to involve themselves in school activities by visiting the school informally at least twice a year;

- prepare for meetings by reading papers beforehand;
- attend professional development training.

In return, our governing body commits to provide all new governors with -

- a structured induction;
- an experienced governor as mentor who will offer support and guidance;
- access to quality training.

All parents and carers are eligible to stand for election, except -

- persons liable to be detained under the Mental Health Act 1983;
- undischarged bankrupts;
- persons recently convicted of a serious offence;
- persons disqualified under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986;
- persons subject to disqualification as a Charity Trustee;
- persons whose employment is prohibited or restricted;
- persons disqualified from being proprietors of independent schools;
- persons on the DfES List 99 (this is a list of people banned from working with children).

(See the nomination form for a full list of those disqualified from holding or from continuing to hold office as a governor)

If you are interested in joining our Governing Body you will need to complete a nomination form which is available from the school office or can be downloaded from the governors' page of the school website - ([www.woodlands.walsall.sch.uk](http://www.woodlands.walsall.sch.uk)). You will need to be nominated for the position - it is acceptable for a husband to nominate his wife or a wife to nominate her husband. It is also acceptable for a parent to nominate him or herself. Any persons signing as proposer must also be parents of children at this school in Reception to Year 6. The nomination form also includes a short statement (no longer than half a side of A4) detailing why you wish to become a governor at Woodlands and what skills and experience you would bring to this important role.

Application forms need to be completed and returned to the school office by **12.00 noon on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2022**. The nominees will then be invited to school to meet with the Chair of Governors and Head Teacher to discuss their application. If two or more nominations are received then a ballot will be held.

If you have any questions then please don't hesitate to contact either Mr Lawrence or Mrs Newton.

Yours sincerely

R F Lawrence  
Chair of Governors

T G Newton  
Head Teacher