

24th April 2018

PARENT GOVERNOR

Dear Parents,

The governing body of our Catholic Academy is responsible for both the conduct of the school and for promoting high standards. The governing body carries out its role by setting the vision for the school and then ensuring that the school works efficiently and effectively towards achieving its vision. It does this by building a thorough knowledge of the school and its community, by both supporting and constructively challenging the school, and by ensuring accountability and compliance. The governing body of our school is made up of foundation governors, parent governors and staff governors.

Three vacancies have arisen for parent governors on our governing body. The governing body is asking you to nominate someone with parental responsibility for a child at the school. If it receives more than three nominations, then a ballot will be held.

Before you decide to nominate someone, or indeed stand yourself, you may want to know about what is involved. 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. If you are someone who feels that your experience will enhance the skills of our governing body, would you consider applying?

Governors also need what is known as ‘soft skills’ – the ability to be able to build relationships with a range of people, to be able to work as part of a team, to be able to question, and to make connections between different types of information. All governors are expected to be able to understand straightforward budget reports and data on school standards; an induction and training programme will be provided.

Our governing body expects governors to

* attend 2 termly meetings of the full governing body
* sit on a committee and attend the meetings which are usually 2 per term
* visit the school formally for monitoring purposes at least once a term
* commit to attend training courses, perform additional research as required and take part in monitoring areas within the school

In return, our governing body commits to

* provide a structured induction
* provide access to quality training via the Diocese and Local Authority
* provide an experienced governor as mentor

**Full details, including a Nomination Form, have been posted on our website. If you would like to find out more about how you can contribute to governance at our school, please email me at imerrington@stbedes.durham.sch.uk, and I will then arrange a time for a conversation.**

I Merrington

Director of Academy Services and Clerk to the Governing Body