

Dear Parents/Carers,

As Chair of the Governing Body for Hallam Fields Junior School I am writing to you all to ask a simple question, do you have some spare time to ensure that your child has the best education possible? If so, we are looking for one of you to join the Governing Body as a Parent Governor.

The role of a Parent Governor is not as a spokesperson for the views of parents. Parent Governors are the same as any other Governor, but provide the essential 'parental viewpoint' i.e., representative parents rather than representatives of parents, and will be an essential part of the Governing Body.

The Governing Body, as a whole, has 3 core functions:

1. Ensuring clarity of the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school.
2. Holding the leaders to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils and the effective and efficient performance management of staff.
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure that its money is well spent.

You are probably now thinking that you are very busy and possibly do not have the time to devote to such a time-consuming role. Or you are now questioning whether you would know what to do as a Parent Governor.

Please allow me to put your mind at rest, as these were the first thoughts that popped into my head when Mr Brown was looking for a Parent Governor back in 2016. I questioned whether my full-time job would allow me to devote time to the school. I doubted that I had the skills and knowledge to support the school in delivering the educational needs of my daughter, and the other children. I also queried whether I would be able to ask the right questions to ensure the decisions of the school were in the best interests of all the children educated there.

I need not have worried about any of this. The Governing Body usually meets 6 times a year, with a little more commitment required, but the amount you can commit is entirely up to you. I have managed to be a Governor without it affecting my full-time job, and still had time remaining to be a Governor at another school, spend time with family, and devote time to my hobbies and interests.

Do not worry about any gaps in your knowledge because, as part of the Governing Body, you will have access to a multitude of courses to enhance what you know and understand. The members of the Governing Body also have a wide range of skills that we can draw upon including IT, finance, HR, education; the list goes on; everyone is really friendly and can help you whenever needed.

If you are still reading at this point, hopefully I have inspired you to volunteer to become a key part of the Governing Body for Hallam Fields Junior School.

I am more than happy to meet anyone that is considering becoming a Parent Governor and answer any questions that you may have.

Yours hopefully,

Antony Smith
Chair of Governors
Hallam Fields Junior School