

St Francis R.C. Primary School

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Head Teacher : Mrs L Frize

Deputy Head: Mrs E McGowan



Dear Parent,

Re: School Governing Body - Parent Governor Election

There is a vacancy for a Parent Governor to serve on the Governing Body.

The other members of the Governing Body represent the Local Authority, the school Staff, the local community and the Catholic Church. The powers and responsibilities of Governors have changed in recent times. Governors should act in a strategic role, as a 'critical friend' to the school and be accountable for their responsibilities.

Some parents may be put off by the amount of work involved in being a Governor, or feel that they do not have the necessary expertise, knowledge or skills to carry out the role effectively. However, parents have much to offer to their local schools and can play a vital part in helping schools to meet the needs of the children and communities they serve.

It is very important that parents stand for election to the Governing Body so that the views of parents are represented on it. Otherwise, a parent may be appointed to serve who has no children in your child's school and who knows very little about the school and its local community.

Enclosed with this letter you find a form which explains how you can be nominated to stand for election, or to nominate some other parent. Please also write a brief statement about yourself to help parents to decide who to vote for (if an election is needed). Your child's Headteacher, can help you produce such a statement. If all candidates are agreeable, Headteachers will also arrange meetings in school before the election date to allow Parents to ask candidates about why they wish to represent them on the Governing Body.

Governors are not expected to be instant experts. Successful candidates will be provided with relevant information, by the Local Authority and the school, once they are elected, and it is expected that they will take part in training events to help them learn about their role. The Governor Support Service offer advice and support to Governors on all aspects of their role.

Remember, decisions taken by the Governing Body will affect **your** child's future education. To make sure you have a voice in that decision making, please make every effort to take part in these elections.

If you want further advice, please speak to your child's Head teacher

Yours faithfully,

Mrs F Cowell

School Business manager

