



Love Determination Responsibility Respect Kindness Friendship Honesty

14 October 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

## PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTION

I am writing to you to invite you to stand for election as a parent governor, or nominate another parent to do so. At St Michael's we have provision for two parent governors and there is currently one vacancy.

The governing body, with the headteacher, has overall responsibility for the running of the school. Governing bodies have three core strategic functions:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils; and
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

No special qualifications are needed and the most important thing is to have a keen interest in the school and be prepared to play an active part in the governing body's work. Training is available for all governors and this governing body has an expectation that those new to being a governor attend free induction training.

Attached to this letter are: a nomination form; a description of the role of a parent governor; and a summary of the circumstances under which someone cannot serve as a governor. Nominations must be from parents or carers with children at the school on the day that nominations close – Monday 7 November at 12pm.

If you would like to stand for election please complete the enclosed nomination form and return it to the school no later than Monday November 7. You may also include a short personal statement to support your nomination, which should be no longer than 250 words and will be shared with parents in the event of a contested election. Self-nominations will be accepted but if you are nominating another parent, please seek their prior consent.

If there are more nominations than vacancies, the election will be by secret ballot. If that is necessary, voting papers will be sent to all parents together with details of the ballot procedure.

Yours faithfully,

Carinne Piekema  
Returning Officer

**Election of parent governor (This is also available as a separate word document)**

Please enter IN BLOCK LETTERS the name and address of the person being nominated for election:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of person nominated: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of proposer (if different to nominee): \_\_\_\_\_

Name and address in BLOCK letters of proposer (if different to nominee):  
\_\_\_\_\_

Personal Statement (maximum 250 words)

<p>Please include a short personal statement here</p>
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I wish to submit my nomination for the election of parent governor.

I confirm (i) that I am willing to stand as a candidate for election as a parent governor and (ii) that I am not disqualified from holding office for any of the reasons set out in the School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2012.

Signature .....

Date .....

Completed nomination forms must be returned to the school by Monday 7 November 2022 at 12pm

## **Role of the Parent Governor**

All governors, regardless of their constituency, are elected or appointed with one common purpose – to govern the school in the best interest of pupils. Parent governors are no exception. They are not elected to represent their stakeholder group, but are elected in order to contribute to the work of the governing body in ensuring high standards of achievement for all children and young people in the school, contributing to strategic discussion, holding senior leaders to account by monitoring school performance and ensuring money is well spent.

Having board members who bring different perspectives and knowledge to the board strengthens it. It is crucial that governors are confident in their role, committed to asking challenging questions and equipped with the confidence to have the courageous conversations essential for good governance being achieved.

## **Governor role description from the National Governance Association (NGA)**

### **Governors work together to carry out their core functions:**

1. ensuring there is clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
2. holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils and the performance management of staff
3. overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent

NGA recognises the following as the fourth core function of governance:

4. ensuring the voices of stakeholders are heard

Governors must also ensure that the governing body complies with all legal and statutory requirements. Governors should seek the advice of the clerk to the governing board and other professional advice as appropriate.

### **Governing body strategic responsibilities**

Governing bodies work closely with headteachers and senior leaders. Headteachers are responsible for day-to-day management whereas the role of the governing body is strategic. As such, governors are responsible for:

- determining the mission, values and long-term ambitious vision for the school
- deciding the principles that guide school policies and approving key policies
- working with senior leaders to develop a strategy for achieving the vision
- ensuring that parents, pupils, staff and the wider community are involved, consulted and informed as appropriate
- ensuring that all pupils have access to a broad and balanced curriculum such that pupils are well prepared for the next stage of their education and adult life
- setting the school's budget and ensuring it is managed effectively together with premises and other resources
- agreeing the school's staffing structure and keeping it under review to ensure it supports delivery of the strategy
- ensuring robust risk management procedures are in place and that risk control measures are appropriate and effective

## Monitoring and evaluating school performance

Governors must monitor the priorities that have been set to ensure progress is being made by:

- measuring the school's impact and progress towards its strategic objectives
- ensuring the required policies and procedures are in place and the school is operating effectively in line with these policies
- evaluating relevant data and feedback provided by school leaders and external reporting on all aspects of school performance
- asking challenging questions of school leaders in order to hold them to account
- holding the headteacher to account for standards, financial probity and compliance with agreed policies
- visiting the school to monitor implementation of the strategy and reporting back to the board (this could be in a link governor capacity)
- ensuring that there are policies and procedures in place to deal with complaints effectively

## Panels and committees

When required, governors are expected to serve on panels or committees in order to:

- appoint the headteacher and other senior leaders
- appraise the headteacher and make pay recommendations
- hear staff grievances and disciplinary matters
- review decisions to exclude pupils
- deal with formal complaints

## Contribution to the governing body

Governors should ensure that they are making a positive and meaningful contribution to the governing body by:

- attending meetings (a minimum of 3\*\* full governing board meetings and a number of committee meetings each year), reading papers and preparing questions for senior leaders in advance
- establishing and maintaining professional relationships with senior leaders and colleagues on the board
- getting to know the school, including visiting the school occasionally during school hours
- undertaking induction training and developing knowledge and skills on an ongoing basis

*\*\* St Michael's Full Governing Body meets 7 times a year and governors are usually members of at least one committee. Committees meet at least 3 times a year.*

## Expenses

Governors should receive out of pocket expenses incurred as a result of fulfilling their role as governor. St Michael's has a Governors' Allowance Policy which determines the conditions under which governors can claim expenses. Payments can cover incidental expenses, such as travel and dependency care, but not loss of earnings.

## **Qualifications and disqualifications to serve as a school governor**

A governor must be aged 18 or over at the time of their election or appointment and cannot hold more than one governorship at the same school.

A person is disqualified from election or appointment as a parent governor if they:

- are employed at the school for more than 500 hours in any 12 consecutive months;
- are an elected member of the Local Authority.

A person is disqualified from holding or continuing to hold office as a governor or associate member if they:

- are a registered pupil at the school;
- have failed to attend governing body meetings at the school without the consent of the governing body, for a continuous period of six months;
- have been disqualified for failing to attend governing body meetings at the school without the consent of the governing body, for a continuous period of six months whilst serving as a foundation, local authority, co-opted or partnership governor at the school in the last 12 months;
- has had their estate sequestrated and the sequestration has not been discharged, annulled or reduced;
- are subject to a bankruptcy restriction order, an interim bankruptcy restrictions order, a debt relief restrictions order or an interim debt relief restrictions order;
- are subject to:
  - a disqualification order or disqualification undertaking under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986
  - a disqualification order under the Companies Directors Disqualification (Northern Ireland) Order 2002
  - a disqualification undertaking accepted under the Company Directors Disqualification (Northern Ireland) Order 2002
  - an order made under section 429(2)(b) of the Insolvency Act 1986 (failure to pay under a county court administration order);
- have been removed from the office of charity trustee or trustee for a charity by an order made by the Charity Commission or Commissioners or High Court on the grounds of any misconduct or mismanagement in the administration of the charity for which he was responsible; or to which he was privy; or to which he contributed or he facilitated by his conduct; or
- have been removed, under section 34 of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, from being concerned in the management or control of any body;
- are included in the list of people considered by the Secretary of State as unsuitable to work with children (under section 1 of the Protection of Children Act 1999);
- are subject to a direction of the Secretary of State under section 142 of the Education Act 2002 (or any other disqualification, prohibition or restriction which takes effect as if contained in such a direction);
- are subject to a direction of the Secretary of State under section 128 of the Education and Skills Act 2008;

- are barred from regulated activity relating to children in accordance with section 3(2) of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006;
- are disqualified from working with children under sections 28, 29, or 29A of the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000;
- are disqualified from registration under Part 2 of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010 for child minding or providing day care;
- are disqualified from registration under Part 3 of the Childcare Act 2006;
- have been convicted of any offence and received a sentence of imprisonment (whether suspended or not) for a period of not less than 3 months (without the option of a fine) in the 5 years before or since becoming a governor;
- have been convicted of any offence and received a prison sentence of two and a half years or more in the 20 years before becoming a governor;
- have been convicted of any offence at any time and received a prison sentence of 5 years or more;
- have been convicted of an offence and sentenced to a fine under section 547 of EA 1996 (nuisance or disturbance on school premises) or under section 85A of the Further and Higher Education Act 1992 (nuisance or disturbance on educational premise) during the 5 years prior to or since appointment or election as a governor;
- have refused a request by the clerk to the governing body to make an application under section 113B of the Police Act 1997 for a criminal records certificate.