



# Watcombe Primary School

Working in partnership with Watcombe Children's Centre & Nursery

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Headteacher - Mr Adam Morris

## Would you like to become a parent governor at Watcombe School?

We are urgently looking for new parent governors to serve on the governing body of Watcombe School.

You don't have to be an expert on education to be a school governor (though it's amazing how much you will learn) and the experience and skills you bring are very valuable. The governing body is particularly interested in appointing individuals with skills in budgeting and finance; knowledge or experience of safeguarding or children with additional needs - although this is desirable not essential and all applications will be welcomed.

As a parent, you will bring a particularly important perspective to the governing body. You will represent parents, but you will share the responsibility with the members of the governing body for all its decision making.

The governing body is made up from several stakeholder groups including staff, Local Authority appointed governors, parents and people drawn from the local community. Parent Governors are elected by and are drawn from the parents and carers (those with parental responsibility) of children at the school.

## What do school governors do?

All schools have governing bodies whose members share *corporate* responsibility. They work closely with the Headteacher and other school staff to carry out a range of legal responsibilities including:

- planning the school's future direction;
- being accountable for the performance of the school;
- making decisions on the school's budget and staffing (including selecting the Headteacher);
- making sure the National Curriculum is taught and deciding how the school can encourage pupils' spiritual, moral and cultural development;
- making sure that the school provides for all its pupils;
- following rules about how meetings are conducted.

School governors are not responsible for running the school day to day: that is the Headteacher's responsibility.

## As a parent governor, what would I be expected to do?

As a governor, you will need to be able to commit time: to attend meetings, to take a share of the workload, to visit the school during school hours and to take part in regular training. The governance term is for 4 years.

At Watcombe Primary School, you would need to be able to attend 4 full governing body meetings per year (2 in the Autumn term and 1 in other terms) in addition to several committee meetings. Each committee usually meets at least once a term so the number of meetings will depend on the number of committees you are a member of. Meetings are usually held at 5.30pm on a Monday and usually last a couple of hours. There are also other events at the school which governors are encouraged to attend.

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## I'm still interested - what should I do next?

If you are interested or would like to find out more, why not contact:

- the Headteacher, Mr Morris
- the chair of governors, Fiona Prior ([cog@watcombe-primary.torbay.sch.uk](mailto:cog@watcombe-primary.torbay.sch.uk) or via the school office) or
- the clerk to the governing body, Amy Fleet ([clerk@watcombe-primary.torbay.sch.uk](mailto:clerk@watcombe-primary.torbay.sch.uk))

They will be delighted to hear from you and will be very willing to give you any information you need and answer any questions so you get a realistic picture of what will be expected.

Successful candidates will be required to complete a child protection check and a declaration that they are eligible to serve as a governor. (Some of the grounds for ineligibility include bankruptcy, being removed by the Charity Commissioners as a charity trustee, being sentenced to custodial sentences of certain duration, being on the list of people barred from working with children and being disqualified for non-attendance.) The governing body may also request proof of identity and proof of address for any governor who is elected and is not a member of staff.

## How to nominate yourself

If you would like to put your name forward, your nomination must be supported by two parents of pupils currently at the school (not including anyone to whom you are closely related). Their signatures, names and addresses must be on the nomination form.

You should use the space provided on the form to write a brief personal statement (100 words maximum) to support your nomination.

If the number of nominations is the same as, or less than, the number of vacancies, all candidates will be elected unopposed. If there are more nominations than vacancies, an election will take place. The statements of all candidates will be typed in a standard format and circulated to all parents with ballot papers.

If you would like to take the opportunity to put yourself forward as a candidate, you should complete the nomination form available from the school office and return it to me at the school by **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October 19**. If it is necessary for there to be an election, I will contact you to let you know about the arrangements.

Yours sincerely,

Fiona Prior  
Chair of Governors

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PARTNERSCHOOL



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



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