

Governor Newsletter

What is a parent governor?

A parent governor brings a parental perspective to the board rather than speaking on behalf of the parent body.

It is not the role of a parent governor to bring complaints from parents to the governing board. Parents should work directly with school staff if they have an issue that they would like the school to resolve. There is a complaints policy that can be followed in the unusual event that the issue cannot be resolved in this way.

A parent governor is able to bring to the board's attention how a decision might affect the school from the view of a parent.

Parents are in a good position to see first-hand how the school has communicated with families about planned changes to the curriculum, or school processes and they are the receiver of pupil updates and progress reports. However, it is important that the parent governor remembers that as a governor they are responsible for the progress and wellbeing of all the children in our schools, not just their own child. This separation can be tricky sometimes.

During meetings the governing board does recognise that agenda items can sometimes have an impact on the individual governor. Discussion can be on a matter that affect their own child. The way that this is managed is by always pre-reading the meeting papers and declaring an interest at the start of the meeting in any item where a governor would feel too close to be impartial. This enables the governor to withdraw from the meeting whilst the matter is discussed and stops conflicts arising in the board's operation.

Please note parents are elected to the governing board, so if you would like to become a candidate please read the info provided, complete the attached form and return to one of the school offices by 31st January.

Governor vacancies

We are looking for three individuals to join the governing body of the Hebden Bridge Schools Federation one as a parent governor and two as associate governors. In particular for our associates we are looking to receive applications from people with experience in HR, Legal, Marketing or Finance. HBSF is a family of three schools - Central Street, Stubbings and Riverside.

Our Governing Board is made up of parent, staff, local authority, co-opted and associate governors.

The Governing Board operates at a strategic level and is not involved in the day-to-day running of our schools. We are responsible for setting a vision for the federation, promoting high standards and ensuring that our schools work efficiently and effectively. This is done by building a thorough knowledge of our schools and community, by supporting and constructively challenging the schools, and by ensuring accountability and compliance.

Governors need not be experts in the field of education. What they need is an interest in our schools and the welfare of pupils, together with the time and willingness to get involved.

So if you have good experience to offer, work well as part of a team and can make a commitment to undergo training, build knowledge on school strategy and fully prepare for and attend meetings, then do take a look at our website for our application form and code of conduct.

If you are interested please get in touch with our Chair at amanda.ward@centralstreet.calderdale.sch.uk



Vacancy - Clerk to the Governing Body

The Hebden Bridge Schools Federation is seeking to appoint an experienced, enthusiastic and highly motivated Clerk to the Governing body.

Governors are responsible for the quality of education our children receive in all three schools. The governors set the long-term strategic direction and vision for the Federation, appoint school leaders who manage the schools and keep regular oversight of what is happening in our schools.

The detailed work is carried out by two committees; The Curriculum and Standards Committee which looks at the standards, progress and care of the children and the Finance, Staffing and Pay Committee which is responsible for budget, buildings and staffing issues. Each committee meets once a term and the output of the committees are brought to the full governing body who then meet towards the end of each term. In addition to this there is an AGM each September. At budget time the Finance, Staffing and Pay Committee have 1-2 additional meetings after which the full governing body will meet to receive their recommendations. So, in total 13 meetings which require preparation, co-ordination and minuting, tend to be held on Wednesday evenings and run for about 2 hours. Our current clerk has averaged c220 hours over previous years carrying out the role.

The role commences as soon as possible at a pay level of £4,000 per annum and is fully supported through the Calderdale Council training programme and through individual performance management.

Interested applicants are invited to consider the Job Description (available on request or via our websites) and complete an application form and submit it to SBM@riverside.calderdale.sch.uk.