



South Avenue Primary School

South Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 4SU

Telephone: 01795 477750

Email: headteacher@southavenue.kent.sch.uk

Headteacher: Miss Samantha Fenn

13th January 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Election of Parent Governors

I am writing to invite you to consider standing for election as a Parent Governor for this school; we currently have one parent governor vacancy. Parent Governors are elected to serve for a period of four years, although they may resign at any time.

The Governing Board has 3 core functions:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the effective and efficient performance management of staff; and
- Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent.

(As detailed in the Governance Handbook)

No special qualifications are needed, the most important thing is to have a keen interest in the school and be prepared to give time to play an active part in the Governing Board's work and be prepared to uphold the school's vision and values. In order to support Governors in their work full training is provided at no cost to the individual.

In our school we have two Parent Governors who serve for a term of office of four years. The full Governing Board normally meets six times per year, once a term, usually at 4.30 p.m. Governors are also expected to complete regular visits to the school. Governors are required to have a DBS check completed upon appointment.

If you would like to stand for election, please complete the attached form and return it to me within 10 school days, i.e., by midday on Monday, 27th January 2020.

You may wish to propose another parent and if so, please ensure that they are aware of your intentions; please also ensure that they sign the nomination form by way of confirmation.

Each person standing for election is invited to provide with their nomination, a short personal statement (a maximum and strictly no more than 250 words). The statement could include biographical information, your reasons for wanting to be a Parent Governor, your skills and the contribution you believe you could make to the Governing Board.

If the number of nominations received is equal or less than the number of vacancies, the nominee(s) will automatically be elected as Parent Governors, subject to a satisfactory DBS check; if there are more nominations than vacancies, a ballot (vote) will be held and copies of the personal statements will be sent to all parents; 10 school days will be allowed for the return of ballot papers.

Each eligible parent will have one vote for each vacancy, irrespective of the number of children they have at the school. The ballot paper and two envelopes will be distributed to each eligible parent. Each ballot paper will be stamped or endorsed for security and/or produced on coloured paper. Ballot papers would be returned in the inner, unmarked envelope, which should in turn, be placed in the outer envelope; the outer envelope should be clearly marked with:

- 'Parent Governor Election'
- the name and address of the voter
- the name(s) of the voters child(ren)
- the voters signature across the seal

I do hope you will consider standing as a Governor or perhaps nominating another parent/carer (please ensure they are aware of your intentions; you should also obtain their signature on the nomination form).

If you would like more information about being a School Governor, please contact a member of our Governing Body or myself for more information via the school office.

Yours sincerely,



Ms S Fenn
Headteacher/Returning Officer

NOMINATION FORM - ELECTION OF PARENT GOVERNORS

- Please return this form to the school named below within 10 school days of the date of the covering letter. i.e. by Monday, 27th January 2020
- Further nomination forms may be obtained from the school office.
- In certain circumstances a person is disqualified from holding or continuing to hold office as a School Governor, an indicative list is attached.
- A DBS check must be commenced within 21 days of election.
- The term of office for the successful candidate runs from date of completion of election process.

Name of the school: **SOUTH AVENUE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Please enter IN BLOCK LETTERS your name and address

(You must be the parent/carer of a child registered at the school)

Name

Address

Signature of nominee – I confirm that I am willing to stand as a candidate for election and that I am not disqualified from holding office for any of the reasons set out in The School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2012 or The School Governance (Constitution and Federations) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2017:

Parent /Carer of (Name of Child/ren)

Signature of proposer (if you are proposing another parent only)

Name and address (if you are proposing another parent only)

Parent /Carer of (Name of Child/ren, if you are proposing another parent only)

We would ask that you include a statement of strictly no more than 250 words to support your application.

In the event that there are more nominations than vacant positions, your statement will be sent to all parents of children at the school and/or may be placed on the school website (the term "parent" includes guardians, foster parents and any person who has actual custody of a child registered at the school)

MAXIMUM 250 WORDS

Indicative School Governance Qualifications and Disqualifications

General

- 1.** A person is disqualified from holding or from continuing to hold office as a governor of a school at any time when the person is a registered pupil at the school.
- 2.** A person is disqualified from being elected or appointed as a governor unless the person is aged 18 or over.
- 3.** Save as otherwise provided in these Regulations, the fact that a person is qualified to be elected or appointed as a governor of a particular category at a school does not disqualify the person from election or appointment or from continuing as a governor of any other category at that school, but no person may at any time hold the office of more than one governor of the same school.
- 4.** Any person who is disqualified from holding office as a governor of a school under this Schedule is likewise disqualified from holding or continuing to hold office as an associate member of the governing body unless the disqualification is under paragraphs 1 or 2 of this Schedule.

Disqualification criteria for categories of governor

- 5.—(1)** A person is disqualified from election or appointment as a parent governor of a school if the person—
 - (a) is an elected member of the local authority; or
 - (b) is paid to work at the school for more than 500 hours in any twelve consecutive months.

(2) A person (“P”) is not disqualified from continuing to hold office as a parent governor because P ceases to be a parent of a registered pupil at the school or to fulfil any of the requirements set out in paragraphs 10 and 11 of Schedule 1 (as the case may be) .
- 6.** A person is disqualified from appointment as a local authority governor if the person is eligible to be a staff governor of the school.
- 7.—(1)** A person is disqualified from nomination or appointment as a partnership governor of a school if the person is—
 - (a) a parent of a registered pupil at the school;
 - (b) eligible to be a staff governor of the school;
 - (c) an elected member of the local authority; or
 - (d) employed by the local authority in connection with their education functions.

(2) The disqualification criterion in paragraph 7(1)(d) does not apply in the case of a person who is employed by a local authority in England under a contract of employment providing for the person to work wholly at a school or schools maintained by the local authority.

8. Upon ceasing to work at the school, a staff governor of a school is disqualified from continuing to hold office as such a governor.

Failure to attend meetings

9.—(1) This paragraph applies to every governor, other than governors who are governors by virtue of the office that they hold.

(2) A governor who, without the consent of the governing Board, has failed to attend their meetings for a continuous period of six months beginning with the date of the first such meeting the governor fails to attend, is, on the expiry of that period, disqualified from continuing to hold office as a governor of that school.

(3) A foundation governor, authority governor, co-opted governor or partnership governor who has been disqualified as a governor of a school under sub-paragraph (2) is not qualified for election, nomination or appointment as a governor of any category at that school for twelve months starting on the date on which they are so disqualified.

Bankruptcy

10. A person is disqualified from holding or continuing to hold office as a governor of a school if—

(a) the person's estate has been sequestrated and the sequestration has not been discharged, annulled or reduced; or

(b) the person is the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order, an interim bankruptcy restrictions order(a), a debt relief restrictions order or an interim debt relief restrictions order(b).

Disqualification of company directors

11. A person is disqualified from holding, or from continuing to hold, office as a governor of a school at any time when the person is subject to—

(a) a disqualification order or disqualification undertaking under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986(c);

(b) a disqualification order under the Company Directors Disqualification (Northern Ireland) Order 2002(d);

(c) a disqualification undertaking accepted under the Company Directors Disqualification (Northern Ireland) Order 2002; or

(d) an order made under section 429(2)(b) of the Insolvency Act 1986(e) (failure to pay under county court administration order).

Disqualification of charity trustees

12. A person is disqualified from holding or from continuing to hold office as a governor of a school if—

- (a) the person (“P”) has been removed from the office of trustee for a charity by an order made by the Charity Commission or Commissioners or the High Court on the grounds of any misconduct or mismanagement in the administration of the charity for which P was responsible or to which P was privy, or to which P contributed or which P facilitated by P’s conduct; or
- (b) the person has been removed, under section 34 of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005(f), from being concerned in the management or control of any body.

Disqualification of elected parent or staff governors who have been removed from office

12A. A person is disqualified from holding or continuing to hold office as a governor of a school until the date immediately after the fifth anniversary of the date of their removal as an elected parent or staff governor under these Regulations.

Persons whose employment is prohibited or restricted

13. A person is disqualified from holding or from continuing to hold office as a governor of a school at any time when the person is—

- (a) included in the list kept under section 1 of the Protection of Children Act 1999(a) (list of those considered by the Secretary of State as unsuitable to work with children);
- (b) subject to a direction of the Secretary of State under section 142 of EA 2002(b) (or any other disqualification, prohibition or restriction which takes effect as if contained in such a direction);
- (c) barred from regulated activity relating to children in accordance with section 3(2) of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006(c);
- (d) disqualified from working with children under sections 28, 29 or 29A of the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000(d);
- (e) disqualified from registration under Part 2 of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010(e) for child minding or providing day care; or
- (f) disqualified from registration under Part 3 of the Childcare Act 2006(f).

Criminal convictions

14.—(1) Subject to sub-paragraph (6) below, a person is disqualified from holding, or continuing to hold, office as a governor of a school where any of sub-paragraphs (2) to (4) or (6) below apply to the person.

(2) This sub-paragraph applies to a person (“P”) if—

(a) within the period of five years ending with the date immediately preceding the date on which P’s appointment or election as governor would otherwise have taken effect or, as the case may be, on which P would otherwise have become a governor by virtue of an office, or

(b) since P’s appointment or election as governor or, as the case may be, since P became a governor by virtue of an office, P has been convicted, whether in the United Kingdom or elsewhere, of any offence and a sentence of imprisonment (whether suspended or not) has been imposed on P for a period of not less than three months without the option of a fine.

(3) This sub-paragraph applies to a person (“Q”) if within the period of 20 years ending with the date immediately preceding the date on which Q’s appointment or election as governor would otherwise have taken effect or, as the case may be, on which Q would otherwise have become a governor by virtue of an office, Q has been convicted of any offence and a sentence of imprisonment has been imposed on Q for a period of not less than two and a half years.

(4) This sub-paragraph applies to a person who has at any time been convicted as aforesaid of any offence and a sentence of imprisonment has been imposed on the person for a period of not less than five years.

(5) For the purposes of sub-paragraphs (2) to (4) above, any conviction by or before a court outside the United Kingdom of an offence which, if the facts giving rise to the offence had taken place in any part of the United Kingdom, would not have constituted an offence under the law in force in that part of the United Kingdom must be disregarded.

(6) This sub-paragraph applies to a person (“R”) if—

(a) within the period of five years ending with the date immediately preceding the date on which R’s appointment or election as governor would otherwise have taken effect or, as the case may be, on which R would otherwise have become a governor by virtue of an office, or

(b) since R’s appointment or election as governor or, as the case may be, since R became a governor by virtue of an office, R has been convicted under section 547 of EA 1996(a) (nuisance or disturbance on school premises) or under section 85A of the Further and Higher Education Act 1992(b) (nuisance or disturbance on educational premises) of an offence and has been sentenced to a fine.

Refusal to make an application for a criminal records certificate

15. A person is disqualified from holding or continuing to hold office as a governor at any time when the person refuses a request by the clerk to the governing Board to make an application under section 113B of the Police Act 1997(c) for a criminal records certificate.

