



The Federation of the Church Schools of Shalfleet and Yarmouth Achieving Together for a Brighter Future

The purpose of the Federation of the Church Schools of Shalfleet and Yarmouth is to educate children in an atmosphere of Christian love where all achieve the very best they can, now and throughout their lives

Headteacher Shalfleet and Yarmouth: Mrs Elizabeth Grainger BEd English (Hons)

A University of Chichester
ITT Partner School



30th September 2020

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

Parent Governor Vacancy - Can you help shape the future of our schools?

The Governing Body of the Federation of the Church Schools of Shalfleet and Yarmouth has an upcoming vacancy for a parent governor in October 2020. We are therefore sending out this letter to invite parents of children at the schools to apply for this position.

The voice of our parents is very important to our Federation and we consider it vital that the governing body has good representation by our parents among its membership.

Information about the role

The Governor's Handbook states that governors are responsible for:

- ensuring that the school has a clear vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils;
- overseeing the financial performance of the school and make sure its money is well spent and all statutory duties are fulfilled.

The governing body is therefore responsible for both the conduct of the schools and for promoting high standards. It carries out its role by setting the vision for the Federation and then ensuring that the schools work efficiently and effectively towards achieving its vision. It does this by building a thorough knowledge of the schools and its communities, by supporting and constructively challenging the leadership and by ensuring accountability and compliance. The governing body of our Federation is made up of parent governors, foundation governors, staff governors and an LEA governor.

Once elected or appointed for a term of four years, a parent governor takes on the role of a school governor, a public volunteer, guided by the Nolan Principles. All governors are equal; no category of governor is any more important or influential than any other. Parent governors exercise a strategic parental voice on the governing body.

Before you decide to nominate someone, or maybe stand yourself, you may want to know a bit more about what is involved. Governors need not be experts in the field of education. What they do need is an interest in the Federation and in the welfare and education of our children and the time and willingness to get involved. The skills you have can be very useful to the governing body. At the moment the governing body is particularly looking for individuals with strengths in marketing, risk management and project management as well as good business links. Governors also need what are known as 'soft skills' – the ability to be able to build relationships with a range of people, to be able to work as part of a team, to be able to listen carefully, to be able to question and to make connections between different types of information. All governors are expected to be able to read straightforward budget reports and data on school standards.

Our governing body expects governors to:

- Attend two termly meetings of the Full Governing Body (FGB) •
- Take on lead responsibility for a particular area of the schools
- Visit the schools formally for monitoring visits at least once per term
- Commit to attend training courses as required by your role

Shalfleet CE Primary, Station Road, Ningwood, Newport, Isle of Wight. PO30 4NN

Tel: (01983) 760269 Email: admin@shalfleetceprimary.co.uk

Yarmouth CE Primary, Mill Road, Yarmouth, Isle of Wight. PO41 0RA

Tel: (01983) 760345 Email: admin@yarmouthceprimary.co.uk

Website: www.fosay.co.uk





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In return, our governing body commits to:

- Provide you with a structured induction
- Provide access to quality training
- Provide you with an experienced governor as mentor

Parent governors are welcomed as valued members of the team and play a vital role in ensuring the governing body is aware of the views of parents and the local community. We feel sure that there are parents prepared to take on this important role and give their time and commitment to helping us to continue to improve the school's performance.

If you feel you can help in this capacity, please contact the office for an application form which will need to be completed and returned to the school by 12.00 noon on Monday 14th October 2020.

The guidelines giving full details about how vacancies are filled can be found on the school's website.

Please note that for the protection of children all governor appointments are subject to a full identity (DBS) check.

If there are more applications than vacancies, we will hold an election and you will be sent a voting paper in due course. You may return the ballot paper either via your child or by post

Yours sincerely

Elizabeth Grainger
Headteacher

pp. Sheila Caws
Clerk to the Governors

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