

Axbridge Church of England First School Academy

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Dear Parents and Carers

Election of One Parent Governor at Axbridge Church of England First School Academy

A vacancy has arisen for one parent governor on the governing body at Axbridge Church of England First School Academy. Schools need enthusiastic and committed people to become governors. Being a governor is not easy, but it is important, interesting and satisfying. Governors have the opportunity to express their own views, to listen to the views of other representing the school and its community and to influence pupils' education for the better.

As a school governor you would be part of a team (the governing body) with a range of important responsibilities. Governors work in partnership with staff to shape the future of the school and to ensure the quality of its educational provision, as well as to support, challenge and monitor the performance of the school in terms of its finances, premises and its staff. In recent developments, we also work with local governing bodies in the Wessex Learning Trust and have representation on the Board of Directors. This adds a welcome layer of support and expertise.

Although parent governors are voted for by the parents of the school they are not delegates, nor do they always have to act as a spokesperson for the parents. In our school the term of office for parent governors is four years, as laid down in our articles of association. Parent governors are not required to resign once their children have left the school, but may serve out the rest of their term of office.

We currently have a very active, supportive governing body and any successful candidates will join an effective, enthusiastic team who work for the good of the school and children within it. The range of skills on offer is wide and varied. At the moment, we have governors experienced in HR, finance and premises and, of course, education. Due to the diverse nature of the work undertaken, we are always looking for new expertise to complement our existing skill set, although we would not want to discourage those with other capabilities or skills from applying.

If you would like to put yourself forward for what is a very rewarding and interesting role, please complete the slip overleaf and return it to the school **NO LATER THAN Friday 9th February**. It would be helpful if you could enclose some factual details about yourself and why you wish to become a governor (not more than 75 words please). You will be notified of the election period in due course.

- If the number of candidates **exceeds** the current vacancy/vacancies, an election will be required and voting slips and details of how to vote will be brought home to you by your child/children.
- If the number of candidates is **equal to** the current vacancy/vacancies, the candidates are deemed to be "elected unopposed".
- If the number of candidates is **less than** the current vacancy/vacancies, the remaining vacancy/vacancies can be filled by persons APPOINTED by other members of the governing body. These persons must be parents of school age children, but not necessarily from this school.

A notice giving the name and addresses of the new parent governor will be placed on the school website. All enquiries about this election should be made to Patricia Page, the Returning Officer at the school.



The attached sheet lists the situations, which disqualify you from serving as a school governor. In addition, you are disqualified from election or appointment as a parent governor if you are an elected member of the local education authority or if you work at our school for more than 500 hours in a school year at the time of your election or appointment. All governor appointments are subject to a Disclosure and Barring Service Clearance which is handled by the local authority once the election/appointment procedure has taken place.

We look forward to receiving your application.

Yours faithfully

Lorna Richardson
Headteacher

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To Patricia Page, the Returning Officer (Axbridge Academy)

I,(Full name in block capitals)

Address:

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wish to stand for election as a Parent Governor of the above school.

Signed: Date:

This nomination is proposed by

(Signed) and seconded by

(Signed)

Both of whom are parents/carers of pupils registered at the school



The following situations disqualify a candidate from serving as a school governor

- Aged less than 18 at the date of election or appointment
- Already a governor of the same school
- Are at any time during their period of office detained under the Mental Health Act 1983
- Fail to attend the governing body meetings for a continuous period of six months, beginning from the date of the first meeting they fail to attend, without the consent of the governing body.
- An ex-officio governor specified in the instrument of government of more than two schools
- A bankrupt or subject to a disqualification order
- Have been removed from the office of a charity trustee or trustee for a charity
- Included in the list (List 99) of teachers and workers with children or young persons whose employment is prohibited or restricted
- Disqualified from working with children
- Disqualified from being the proprietor of any independent school or for being a teacher or other employee in any school
- Have been sentenced to 3 months or more in prison (without the option of a fine) in the 5 years before becoming a governor or since becoming a governor
- Have received a prison sentence of 2.5 years or more in the 20 years before becoming a governor.
- Have been subject to a sentence of imprisonment for a period of not less than five years at any time in the past
- Subject to a disqualification order under the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000.
- Refuse to an application being made to the Criminal Records Bureau for a criminal records certificate.
- Have been fined for causing a nuisance or disturbance on school premises during the 5 years prior to or since appointment or election as a governor.

