

ABBOTSWOOD JUNIOR SCHOOL



'Helping **everyone** achieve their best'

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'It Really Does Matter'

10 September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Parent Governor Vacancy

First of all, I would like to warmly welcome you to the new school year, especially families joining us for the first time.

At Abbotswood we have always aimed for a partnership with parents, which undoubtedly brings benefits for all children. From 1 November 2020, we have a vacancy for a parent governor. This is an excellent opportunity to contribute to the school and get more involved in important decisions about the school and your child's education. The role is unpaid and takes a few hours of your spare time.

I have covered below some of the common queries about being a governor; for more information, you may also like to have a look at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/governors> I'm more than happy to have a chat with you if you have any questions - please leave your details at the school office.

If you would like to apply, please complete the attached application form and email it to admin.office@abbsch.co.uk by **12 noon on Friday 25 September 2020**. **Applications received after this deadline will not be considered.** If you would prefer to have a paper application form sent to you, please contact the school office.

If there is more than one applicant, an election will be held and further details sent to all parents.

For the protection of children, all governor appointments are subject to an enhanced DBS check (Disclosure and Barring Service).

Best wishes

Bob Carson

Chair of Governors

- **What does the Governance Board do?**

The Governance Board provides strategic leadership and accountability in school. It has three key functions:

- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent
- Holding leaders to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils
- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction

Governors do not take an active part in the day to day running of the school - this is the responsibility of the head and the staff. At this school we have 15 governor posts, of which two are for parents of children in the school, elected by the parents.

- **What decisions would I have to make as a governor?**

All decisions are made as a group and you have no powers as an individual governor.

- **Will it take a lot of time?**

Broadly speaking, your minimum commitment is to attend 4 meetings a term. These are usually in the afternoon or evening, at school, and last about two hours. Meetings may be 'virtual' (i.e. via zoom) during the current COVID-19 pandemic. If you need to pay for childcare to attend meetings, we will reimburse the cost. Beyond this, you can get involved in one-off exercises, for example, analysing test results or getting quotes for new school equipment. But this would be entirely your choice. Your term of office is for 4 years and you can remain for 4 years even if your child leaves the school. However, you can resign at any time.

- **What's in it for me?**

Being a governor means you are helping to shape your child's school. You will be involved in real matters affecting your child. It's rewarding and interesting. You may have the opportunity to use skills you have gained through your working life, but being a governor also may help you to develop skills and abilities which will be useful to you in the future.

- **Will it cost me anything?**

No. If you attend training, travel expenses can be claimed. If you need to arrange childcare to attend meetings or courses, the school will cover the costs.

- **Are there any downsides?**

Some decisions are hard to make. They can be emotive and sensitive. As a governor it is your job to think about the needs of all children in the school, not just your own children, and it can be difficult to take a balanced view if your child is affected. Not everyone is interested in all aspects of school life. Also, as a governor you MUST keep information confidential. The temptation to gossip must be resisted!

- **What support will I get?**

All new governors attend a Hampshire County Council induction course, which can be during the day or in the evening, and there are plenty of courses available on other topics too. All training is free of charge. Support and help is available from school staff, other governors, online information and a dedicated Governor Services unit at Hampshire County Council.

If you have any other queries please leave your name and number at the school office and I'll get in touch with you.