



Ormiston NEW Academy

PRIDE – ENDEAVOUR – TOGETHER

Marsh Lane, Wolverhampton, West Midlands, WV10 6SE

Principal: Mr Craig Cooling

01902 623 111

info@onewa.co.uk

11th September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Ormiston NEW Academy needs YOU!

We have an open vacancy for the role of parent governor and are welcoming applications. The term for a parent Governor is 4 years and some detail about the role can be found below. Parent governors sit on the Local Governing Body and are invited to three meetings per academic year (one meeting per term). They are also given the opportunity to attend and complete a wide range of training and development programmes, enhancing and enriching their knowledge of school life.

The parent governor's role is unique in that they bring their own perspective as the parent of a school pupil to the governing body. In all other respects though they are the same as the other governors, adhering to the seven [Nolan principles of public life](#), holding the principal and SLT to account.

Nominees must be selected via a transparent process open to all eligible parents. If more nominations are received than there are vacancies on the LGB, then an election must be held. Parent governors are not required to stand down if their child or children leave the school before their 4-year term of office concludes and can stay on for the full-term if desired.

The parent governor is expected to:

- Be familiar with the OAT strategy and the academy ethos and vision
- Contribute to strategic leadership of the academy
- Provide context and parental perspective to issues discussed by the governing body
- Hold the principal and members of the SLT to account
- Help other members of the LGB to understand the culture of the school and identify issues as they arise
- Become a link governor if required
- Commit to furthering knowledge, understanding and expertise in relation to governance, taking up training opportunities where available in line with the LGB training and development plan
- Engage with stakeholders wherever possible, e.g., represent the governing body at parent and pupil events, to help parents and pupils understand the role of the governing body
- Invite other parents to suggest topics to bring before the governors
- Ensure that any parents who may come to you with issues are aware of the appropriate reporting structures if they have a grievance, such as the complaint policy

Limitations of the role

- Parent governors have been elected to provide a parental viewpoint, but not act directly in the interest of individuals – their first duty is pupil wellbeing and the school as a whole
- The parent governor may seem like a natural person for other parents to approach with grievances or problems, but they must be clear that it is not their role to advocate or for individuals; they are not responsible for bringing parental grievances to the governor body's attention.
- They must separate their role as a governor from their role as parent

- Set expectations with other parents – help them to understand that your role isn't to:
 - Speak on their behalf
 - Bring up individual issues in meetings
 - Solve problems for them
- Confidentiality is always advised if parents approach the parent governor with problems, but the governor should also direct them to the appropriate channels, following the standard complaint policy
- If the parent governor becomes aware of a growing theme – i.e., multiple parents coming forward to report the same issue, then the parent governor can request it be added to a future agenda for discussion, submitting a paper with details in advance – but consider if it would be better addressed by the PTA or through another channel
- Avoid conflicts of interest – for instance you should not sit on an exclusion panel where you know the affected children or their parents and already have opinions about them (whether positive or negative, preconceived ideas could, or could be seen to, affect the outcome)

If you are interested in becoming a Parent Governor, please complete the following online form before midday on Friday 13th September: <https://forms.office.com/e/5aa9KyaD9x>

Yours sincerely



Mrs. N. O'Connor
Clerk to the Governors