



FOCUS



on

ST MARY & ST THOMAS AQUINAS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
www.stmaryandthomasaquinas.co.uk

'Together we strive for excellence, inspired by the joy of the Gospel'.

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22nd March 2021



Would YOU like to become a Parent Governor at our school?



If so then please read the following and send in your application form.

A parent governor is a volunteer, usually a parent of a child who is currently attending the school, who has the relevant skills, commitment and enthusiasm to contribute towards the effective governance and overall success of the school.

Parent governors are in the best position to understand the views of parents, making them a valuable asset to any governing board as they can facilitate effective communication with the parent community and help the board understand how certain issues can impact parents and their children.

Although an integral component of the role is informing the board about parent-focussed issues, parent governors are not there to represent the views of other parents in the community. Parent governors are an independent governor, who should act as a part of the board, working towards the board's objectives, and voting and contributing as an individual and not a delegate for parents.



MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES

General

Attend all full **governing board** meetings and relevant committee meetings promptly, regularly and for the full duration.

Prepare for meetings by reading all relevant paperwork and considering queries, feedback and potential issues to raise during the meeting.

Read relevant briefings and newsletters.

Support and stand by the decisions made by the **governing board**.

Respect and adhere to the confidentiality of **governing board** affairs.

Develop an in-depth understanding of effective governance as well as school policies and procedures.

Comply with all of the school's and **governing board's** policies and procedures, and promote compliance with these to the wider school community.

Represent the school in a positive and approachable manner.

The main responsibility of a school governor is to ensure high standards of achievement for all pupils at the school.



ST MARY AND ST THOMAS AQUINAS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle



Who can serve as a School Governor?

Under “*The School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2012*”, a governor:

- Must be aged 18 or over at the time of his/her election or appointment
- Can not be a registered pupil at the school.

Cannot hold more than one governor post at the same school at the same time.

A person is disqualified from holding or continuing to hold office if that person:

- is the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order or an interim order, debt relief restrictions order, an interim debt relief restrictions order or their estate has been sequestrated and the sequestration has not been discharged, annulled or reduced is subject to a disqualification order or disqualification undertaking under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986, a disqualification order under Part 2 of the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1989, a disqualification undertaking accepted under the Company Directors Disqualification (Northern Ireland) Order 2002, or an order made under section 429(2)(b) of the Insolvency Act 1986 (failure to pay under county court administration order)
 - has been removed from the office of charity trustee or trustee for a charity by the Charity Commission or Commissioners or High Court on grounds of any misconduct or mismanagement, or under section 34 of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 from being concerned in the management or control of any body
 - is included in the list of teachers or workers considered by the Secretary of State as unsuitable to work with children or young people
 - is barred from any regulated activity relating to children
 - is subject to a direction of the Secretary of State under section 128 of the Education and Skills Act 2008
 - is disqualified from working with children or from registering for child-minding or providing day care
 - is disqualified from being an independent school proprietor, teacher or employee by the Secretary of State
 - has been sentenced to three months or more in prison (without the option of a fine) in the five years before becoming a governor or since becoming a governor
 - has received a prison sentence of two years or more in the 20 years before becoming a governor
 - has at any time received a prison sentence of five years or more
 - has been fined for causing a nuisance or disturbance on school premises during the five years prior to or since appointment or election as a governor
- refuses a request for the clerk to apply to the Disclosure and Barring Service for a criminal records check.

A person is disqualified from being a governor of a particular school if they have failed to attend the meetings of the governing body of that school for a continuous period of six months, beginning with the date of the first meeting they failed to attend, without the consent of the governing body. This does not apply to the Headteacher or to foundation governors appointed by virtue of their office.

Nomination form for Parent Governors is on Page 4 - Please return to Theresacostello@gateshead.gov.uk or place it in an envelope in the box at the front of school. Thank you.



ST MARY AND ST THOMAS AQUINAS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

www.stmaryandthomasaquinas.co.uk

Head Teacher: Miss E White CBE



22nd March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

We have a Parent governor vacancy which we need to fill as soon as possible. St. Mary and St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Primary School has always aimed for a partnership with parents which undoubtedly brings great benefits to the children. One of the most significant ways you can help in promoting this aim is to volunteer to be a Parent governor.

The governing body's main tasks are:

- to ensure that the school has a clear vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- to hold the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils;
- to oversee the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

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.

Training and support will be available to help you develop into the role. This will include in-house mentoring and support as well as access to external governor training from Gateshead Council.

Our governing body expects governors to:

- attend one termly meeting of the full governing body
- be a member of one sub-committee and attend one termly sub-committee meeting.
- visit the school formally for monitoring purposes at least once each term.
- visit the school informally at least three times a year.
- commit to attend training courses, and undertake additional independent research as required to ensure you are able to function efficiently as a governor

If you feel you can help in this capacity please complete the attached nomination form which will need to be returned to the school by the closing date on Thursday 1st April 2021.

Please note that if successfully elected, the School Governance (Constitution and Federations) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2016 states that "Where a governor is elected or appointed on or after 1st April 2016 and does not hold an enhanced criminal record certificate, the governing body must apply for such a certificate in respect of that governor within 21 days after his or her appointment or election". Failure to apply for a DBS check within 21 days will result in disqualification and removal from the governing body.

If there are more nominations than vacancies, we will hold a ballot which will close on Thursday 29th April 2021 and you will be sent a voting paper in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Theresa Costello

Returning Officer, on behalf of the Headteacher
St. Mary & St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Primary School



St Mary and St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Primary School

Stella Lane, Blaydon, Tyne and Wear NE21 4NE Telephone 0191 414 3116 Fax 0191 414 5087

Head Teacher: Miss E White CBE Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle

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Nomination Form for Parent Governors

I would like to nominate myself to be a parent governor.

Name: Mrs/Ms/Miss/Mr/Other.....	
Address:	
Home tel. No:	Work tel. No:
Email:	
I am the parent/guardian of (please enter below the names of your children who currently attend the school).	
Please use this space for a brief personal statement to support your nomination, setting out clearly the skills you feel you can contribute to effective governance and the success of the school. This statement (but not the whole form) will be circulated to parents if there is to be a ballot.	
Please tick all boxes before signing:	
I confirm that I have read the Qualifications and Disqualifications (regulation 17 and Schedule 4 of the Constitution Regulations 2012) overleaf and declare that I am not disqualified from serving as a school governor.	<input type="checkbox"/>
I understand that if successfully elected, I must co-operate with the application for a DBS check by the school, within 21 days of my election.	<input type="checkbox"/>
I am aware that if successfully elected my postal and e-mail addresses and contact numbers will be sent to and stored confidentially on a database by Governor Support at Gateshead Council.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Signed _____	Date _____

