



## Some Questions and Answers for prospective Parent Governors

### What is the composition of the Governing Body?

The Governing Body consists of the Headteacher, School Business Manager, an elected staff Governor, two elected parent Governors and two Governors appointed by each of: the LDBS, Camden Deanery and the PCCs of our two churches.

The Governing Body has a Chair, Vice-Chair and a Clerk from the LDBS.

### How much time will it take up?

Meetings of the Governing Body are held ten times a year, usually on the second Tuesday of every month from 6-8pm at the school. Committees are convened at distinct times of the year to look at specific issues. Governors are expected to spend time before each meeting reading the agenda, the minutes and other papers to prepare for a meeting. Governor appointments are for a period of four years.

### Can I get help with child-minding costs?

Yes, if you need to employ a child-minder for evening meetings, then you can claim some of the costs back from the school.

### Can I get help to understand what happens at meetings?

Yes: the Chair will meet new governors before their first meeting to talk through the agenda. There is excellent induction training provided by the LDBS or Camden which will help you to understand how governing bodies operate and we recommend that all new Governors attend this training (usually half-a-day).

### Do I get paid for being a governor?

No: All school governors are unpaid volunteers.

### What do governors actually do?

Governors are responsible for the strategic direction of the school: they make long term decisions about the progress and development of the school. Governors help to appoint the senior staff, they make decisions about the school's budget, they decide on policies for every aspect of the school and they set targets for pupil achievement and attendance. Governors ensure that the school provides the highest standard of education for every child.

### Can I talk to parents or other people about what goes on in meetings?

You can talk about matters in a very general way, but you must not identify any individual member of staff or any child. As the governing body acts as a "corporate body" you cannot talk about any differences of opinion during the meeting, you can only report the final decision of the governing body. Part of the agenda is strictly confidential (it covers discipline, exclusions and similar items) and you must not talk about anything discussed in that section. Governors are asked to agree to a Code of Conduct that will be explained at your first meeting.

### What are the benefits of becoming a governor?

You will have a real say on how the school manages its budget, personnel and buildings, and how school policies are developed.

### Are there any restrictions on becoming a governor?

Governors must be over 18 years of age; not be bankrupt, nor have served a long prison sentence nor have been disqualified from working with children. All governors are required to sign a declaration to this effect and a Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) Check will be carried out.

### If I enjoy being a governor here, can I become a governor of other schools?

Yes, you can be a member of another school governing body, but you cannot be a member of more than two governing bodies.