

16 March 2018

Dear parent/carer

Are you interested in becoming a school governor?

At the beginning of the summer term, we'll be looking to fill the two parent governor vacancies on the new Federation Governing Body. Might you be interested in this volunteering role?

Governors are volunteers who work together with the Executive Headteacher and senior leadership team to deliver the best education for the pupils at their schools. Generally, school governors are not specialists in education. Instead, much of the role is about exercising common sense – and using existing skills and specialisms – to work together in the best interests of the children. The governors work with the Executive Headteacher on a diverse range of matters – from deciding what kind of schools we want Victoria and Thomas Coram to be and thinking about how we want it to get there, to setting school policies and ensuring money is spent on the right things.

Most importantly, governors are there to question and challenge the schools' leaders on the standards of educational performance. Ultimately, they work with the schools to ensure that pupils receive the best opportunities to learn in an environment in which they feel happy and secure and gain the satisfaction of knowing they are helping to make a difference in the education of the children who attend our Church schools.

It involves a combination of evening meetings (starting at 7pm) that are lively and interactive; some visits to Victoria and Thomas Coram during the day; and time spent reading through documents/writing up notes. Many of our current governors work full time and manage to fit in their role around their other commitments. Their motivation is invariably to make a positive contribution to something of fundamental importance: educating our children.

This is a hugely exciting time to become a governor at Castle Church of England Federation – the new governing body overseeing both Victoria and Thomas Coram schools. The vacancies are for parents or carers with children at either Victoria or Thomas Coram and who have the enthusiasm and time available to support high quality Church of England primary education in Berkhamsted. You'll be joining a friendly, 16-strong team of governors. The term of office is usually 4 years; you'll receive free training and support.

A parent who is paid to work at either school for more than 500 hours in a school year or is an elected member of the Local Authority cannot stand. If more than two people apply, there will be an election where all parents and carers will be invited to vote for their preferred two candidates. Child protection regulations require that this role involves a criminal background check.

We'll be asking for confirmed expressions of interest in the role at the start of next term. Meanwhile, for more information about what a governor does, you can visit www.nga.org.uk/Be-a-Governor/Be-a-Governor.aspx.

If you would be interested in having an informal chat to find out more about how you can contribute to governance at our schools, you can also leave your details with the admin team at either Victoria or Thomas Coram and a current governor will contact you to arrange a time for a conversation.

Yours sincerely



Mr R Halls
Executive Headteacher