

BECOME A PARENT GOVERNOR AT THIS SCHOOL

St Joseph's School – A Catholic Voluntary Academy Governing Body

Parent Governor Information Sheet

BACKGROUND

School Governors are the largest group of volunteers in the country. There are over 1,000 School Governors in Doncaster alone. Parent Governors are elected by the parents of pupils in the school and are vital to a Governing Body because they ensure that the other Governors are kept in touch with the concerns and issues of most importance to our parents. A vacancy exists for a Parent Governor.

WHO ARE SCHOOL GOVERNORS? WHAT DO THEY DO?

Governors are people who wish to make a positive contribution to the school and the education of its children. They will contribute to the strategic direction of the school and the educational achievements of its pupils.

A Governing Body's overriding responsibility is to work in partnership with the Headteacher to promote continuous improvement in the performance of the school. This involves the establishment of a development plan, the setting of challenging but achievable targets and the interpretation of information to assess progress and determine appropriate action. Typically, a Governor's duties will average at around 6 hours of spare time each month. Aligned to its improvement role, the Governing Body is there to be a 'critical friend' which will provide the right balance between supporting and challenging the performance of both the Headteacher and the school.

TRAINING AND SUPPORT

Doncaster values the voluntary contribution of its Governors and in return aims to provide a high quality Governors' Support Service.

The Doncaster Governors' Support Service recently achieved the Government's prestigious Customer Service Excellence Standard in recognition of its commitment to Governors and School Governing Bodies.

Governors are able to access support in a variety of ways including training courses and a helpline for any queries.

BECOMING A PARENT GOVERNOR

Being a Parent Governor can be stimulating, enjoyable and rewarding. If you have the enthusiasm and the time to become closely involved in the running of the school then please consider putting yourself forward for the current vacancy.

Parent Governors are an important component in achieving an effective and well-balanced Governing Body. They are in a good position to understand the views of fellow parents but they are not required to carry out the wishes of the parent body, whatever these might be. Parent Governors are essentially representatives of the school's parent community.

You will be a member of the Governing Body of the school and will have the same powers, duties and responsibilities as all other Governors.

Doncaster Council is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects Governors to share this commitment.

You should be aware that any appointment as a Parent Governor on a School's Governing Body may be subject to an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check.

If you are interested please contact the school telephone 01302 868098 or the Governors' Support Service Telephone 01302 737193 or visit the website www.doncaster.gov.uk/schoolgovernors