

## All Saints Church of England Primary Federation, Hessle

### The Role of the Parent Governor

#### Outline of Role

This applies to elected parent governors, and governors who are parents of, or have a family relationship to, children at the school, or those parents of previous or potential pupils co-opted by the governing body as outlined below.

Foundation Governors have a special role in, and responsibility for, ensuring that the Christian character of the school is secured, preserved and developed and that the school is run in accordance with any trust deed relating to the school. **However, all governors on the LGB share this responsibility.**

The Government provides guidance on the role of a Governor in its “Governor’s Handbook” (the latest version of which can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/governors-handbook--3>). The Handbook identifies the following three core strategic functions of Governing Bodies:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
2. Holding the executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the performance management of staff;
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent.

#### Preamble

- The role of the parent governor is an opportunity to make a real contribution to the strategic direction of the school
- Whilst maintaining rapport with their electorate, it is vital that the parent governor maintains a strategic view and does not partake in discussions involving individual concerns apart from advising the individual how to progress their concern via the appropriate route, in order to avoid the risk of jeopardising the outcome of any possible complaint or appeals procedure.
- It is important to understand that the parent governor is not the parents’ representative on the governing body in the same way as a trade union representative and is not permitted to act alone or give feedback on behalf of the governing body.
- The parent governor is a representative parent elected to bring the parental perspective to the governing body. They are not a go-between, and should act according to their own conscience and beliefs.
- A parent governor should be appointed following a free election amongst all parents of children at the school at the time of election. This election will be organised and managed by the school

- If the election fails to provide an eligible candidate the governing body may co-opt a parent of a child previously at the school or, if that fails, the governing body may co-opt a parent of a child about to attend the school.

**The designated governor shall, in no particular priority order:**

- At all times comply with the Governor Code of Conduct
- At all times comply with all governor protocols and maintain confidentiality
- Have equal rights with all other governors##
- Not participate in discussions where they have a personal interest
- Feel free to express their own views without fear or favour
- Feel free to report widely held parent views where appropriate, whether or not they agree
- Attend governor training sessions as required
- Agree with the governing body whether or not, and how, decisions can be shared with other parents
- Withdraw from any discussion where there is a perceived conflict of interest if directed by the Chair to do so

**In order to help achieve their role as a governor the parent governor should:**

- Never press their own personal agenda at the expense of others
- Always be clear about what information can be reported back to parents
- Never promise to solve a problem on their own
- Never bring individual issues to a meeting without having followed agreed procedures
- Abide by protocols for raising agenda items and “any other business”
- Maintain awareness of parent views and concerns
- Regularly visit school, by prior arrangement, to become, and remain, familiar with all aspects of the school, completing a record of visit for each occasion
- Play an active part in meetings and all aspects of governance

**##Exceptions to the Equal Rights clause – Chair’s discretion applies**

- A parent governor should not be present in a meeting where consideration is being given to any issue involving their child, or any other child or parent with whom they can be perceived to have a close relationship.
- A parent governor should not be present in a meeting where consideration is being given to a matter of pay or performance of their child’s (children’s) class teacher.

Approved by the governing body on (date).....

Signed.....Chair of Governors