Riverside Beckenham

2 Hayne Road, Beckenham,
Kent, BR3 4HY
📞 020 8639 0079
✉ admin@riverside.bromley.sch.uk

RIVERSIDE SCHOOL

Be All That You Can Be

Riverside St. Paul's Cray

Main Road, St Paul's Cray,
Orpington, Kent, BR5 3HS
📞 01689 870519
✉ admin@riverside.bromley.sch.uk

17th January 2020

Dear Parent

Can you help shape the future of our school?

The Governing Board currently has a vacancy for one parent governor to serve for a period of four years.

Joining the Governing Board as a Parent Governor offers you the opportunity to make a real contribution to the life and work of your child's school.

Your voice as a parent is very important to our school and it is vital that the governing board has good representation by our parents among its membership.

Once elected or appointed for a term of four years, a parent governor takes on the role of a school governor, a public volunteer. All governors are equal; no category of governor is any more important or influential than any other. Parent governors exercise a strategic parental voice on the governing board.

I have included more detailed information on the role of governors with this letter. Please read this as it is important to understand the role, expectations and commitment before applying.

Being a governor does take up time. There are four governing board meetings each year, and governors usually serve on a committee which meets once a term. You will need to set aside time to be able to be an effective governor: time to prepare for meetings, for visiting the school, undertaking training and updating the Board on any area for which you have a responsibility. Additional commitments will be required for a Governor Day each term and for occasional meetings considering particular issues.

No prior experience of being a governor is required and you will be fully supported by way of induction, training and mentoring support.

To find out more about what being a governor at this school is like, you can contact George Christian george.christian@riverside.bromley.sch.uk would be very willing to answer any questions.

If you would like to take the opportunity to put yourself forward as a candidate, you may only do so on an official form, so please complete and return the attached nomination form (electronic forms can be found on our website). Please ensure that the completed form is returned to the school by 10am on Friday 31 January 2020. If it is necessary for there to be an election, I will contact you to let you know about the arrangements.

Yours sincerely

Steve Solomons
Headteacher

Information about the role

What can you offer as a parent governor?
- Enthusiasm, time and commitment.
- Any professional or other skills you may have will be very helpful.
- An openness to learning and change, and wanting to make a difference.
- Governors also provide objectivity in debate and decision-making and can add further and different perspectives to school matters.

What are the benefits?
- Being a school governor is a privilege – you are a small but very important part in an educational system with a very long history.
- The knowledge that you have played a part in improving children's education and supported the school's staff.
- A chance to develop new skills, to practice and strengthen existing ones, such as chairing a meeting, researching or leading on a key school issue.
- The opportunity to work as part of a team to make a real difference in the community.
- The opportunity to meet new people from all walks of life whom you probably would not have otherwise encountered.
- Knowing that the decisions you collectively make will have a huge impact on children's lives.
- You develop as a person and may even find that your experiences as a governor influence future career and life choices.

If you are interested in volunteering, here's what you should do. . .
1. Please check that you are eligible to stand as a parent governor. The definition of "parent" includes:
    a. All natural parents, whether they are married or not; and
    b. Any person who, although not a natural parent, has parental responsibility for a child or young person; and
    c. "Parent" is defined as including "any individual who has or has had parental responsibility for, or cares for, a child or young person under the age of 18". It includes a person who the child lives with and who looks after the child, irrespective of what their relationship is with the child. The reference in the definition must be to someone involved in the full-time care of the child on a settled basis.

There are some criteria which can disqualify you from serving as any type of governor. This list is given in the form attached. If you are applying, then you must confirm that you are not disqualified by those criteria.

What happens after the nomination deadline has passed?
Any nominations received after the deadline will not be accepted.

If the school receives more nominations than there are vacancies, then we will hold an election and parents will be asked to take part in a secret ballot to vote for the candidate(s) they feel would be most suitable as a parent governor. The information you supply as part of your nomination will be circulated to parents to help them decide who to vote for. Your personal contact details will not be distributed. This is for governing board purposes only.

If the school receives the same amount of nominations as there are vacancies, then those nominees are deemed to be 'elected unopposed' and become parent governors without the need for a ballot.

If an election needs to take place then I will inform all nominees personally, and all parents in writing, providing the details of how to vote and the deadline for doing so.

PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTION – January 2020

NOMINATION FORM

Name and address of
candidate willing to serve:

Candidate's Statement (maximum 60 words)

Signature

Name and address
of Proposer:

Signature

Name and address
of Seconder:

Signature

THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED TO THE SCHOOL NO LATER THAN 10am ON FRIDAY 31ST JANUARY 2020 TOGETHER WITH THE SIGNED DECLARATION OF ELIGIBILITY

DECLARATION OF ELIGIBILITY

Name
Address
Postcode
Tel   (home)
(mobile)
(work)
School **Riverside School**

I declare that I am not disqualified from serving as a school governor and that:

- **I am** aged 18 or over at the date of this election or appointment;

- **I do not** already hold a governorship of the same school;

- **I am not** liable to be detained under the Mental Health Act 1983;

- **I am not** a bankrupt or subject to a disqualification order under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 or to an order made under section 429(2)(b) of the Insolvency Act 1986;

- **I have not** been removed from the office of a charity trustee or trustee for a charity by an order made by the Charity Commissioners or the High Court on the grounds of any misconduct or mismanagement or, under section 7 of the Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Scotland) Act 1990, from being concerned in the management or control of any body;

- **I am not** included in the list (List 99) of teachers and workers with children or young persons whose employment is prohibited or restricted;

- **I am not** disqualified from being the proprietor of any independent school or for being a teacher or other employee in any school;

- **I have not**, in the five years prior to becoming a governor, received a sentence of imprisonment, suspended or otherwise, for a period of not less than three months without the option of a fine;

- **I have not**, in the twenty years prior to becoming a governor, been convicted as aforesaid of any offence and has had passed on me a sentence of imprisonment for a period of not less than two and a half years;

- **I have not**, at any time, had passed on me a sentence of imprisonment for a period of not less than five years;

- **I have not** been fined, in the five years prior to becoming a governor, for causing a nuisance or disturbance on education premises;

- **I am not** subject to a disqualification order under the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000.

Signature_____   Date_____