

PARENT GOVERNOR AT BEARWOOD PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL

I hope the following information will help you if you are thinking of becoming a governor at Bearwood Primary & Nursery School.

The role of governors is to help schools provide the best possible education for the pupils by thinking and working strategically. This is achieved by:

- Monitoring and evaluating progress towards the school's priorities and targets
- Supporting the head and staff
- Accounting for the school's overall performance and for the decisions that have been made.

It is essential that Governors appreciate and respect the need for confidentiality, especially around staffing, pupil and financial matters.

There are 8 Governors at Bearwood Primary & Nursery School made up from the following categories:

- **Parent Governors** – selected by election (or appointed if insufficient people stand for election) and drawn from parents and carers of children at the school.
- **Staff Governors** – selected by election from teaching and support staff paid to work at the school.
- **Co-opted Governors** – appointed by the governing board on the basis of their skills and experience.

In addition, the governing board can appoint associate members to bring in specialist skills or to support specific projects.

The full governing board usually meets five times a year, on a Thursday evening at 6:30 p.m. At this meeting governors will receive reports from the Headteacher and have wide-ranging discussions on matters that have a direct impact on the development of the school and on the pupils in its care. It is expected that all governors will attend these meetings or send apologies if it is not possible on some occasions.

Papers for the meeting are sent out usually at least 7 days in advance, you are expected to read these in preparation for the meeting so that you can comment and question appropriately. We usually communicate electronically so access to an Internet enabled device would be beneficial.

Each Governor would usually take on a monitoring role linked to key areas of the school's work. Governors are well-supported to ensure that they are able to fulfil this role.

As a new governor you will be offered free training by Hamwic Education Trust and BCP Local Authority to enable you to understand your role and develop the skills and confidence to be a valuable member of the team. This training will also give you the opportunity to 'network'

with other school governors. Additionally, the school subscribes to the National Governors Association who provide support to Governors. As your work on the governing board progresses, other training opportunities will be provided to advance your knowledge and skills. Support will also be available from experienced members of the governing board who will ensure that you are comfortable in your new and developing role.

I hope this has given you a flavour of the role of a governor, but please contact Pat Rushton, the Clerk to the Governors (p.rushton@bearwood.poole.sch.uk) if you have any questions. Alternatively, please contact the school office and leave your contact details with them so that a member of the governing board can meet with you for a discussion.