

Dear Parent/Carer,

We have two vacancies for parent governors.

Ashmount has always aimed for a partnership with parents, which undoubtedly brings great benefits to the children. One of the most significant ways you can help in promoting this aim is to volunteer to be a parent governor. The governing body's main tasks are to ensure that pupils receive high quality education, to plan for future development and improvement, and to support the school. Whilst specialist knowledge or relevant experience is useful, common sense and willingness to give time are key requisites.

Parent Governors are an important part of the Governing Board. They play a vital role in ensuring the governing body is aware of the views of parents and the local community. They may vote on all matters which are considered at Full Governing Board meetings and at the meetings of the Committees they belong to. The expectations placed on Governing Boards are increasing and it is important that all governors are prepared and able to play an active role. Parent Governors serve for a period of four years once they are elected. The responsibilities which go with the role are as follows:

- Attending Full Governing Board meetings which take place once a term, currently
- Belonging to at least one of the Board's Committees which currently concentrate on Resources (Finance, HR and Resources), Teaching & Learning, and Children, Families and Community (We are keen to appoint a parent to the Teaching and Learning Committee and Children, Families and Community committee.)
- Attending the meetings of the relevant Committees
- Committing to make a governors' visit to the school for the equivalent of at least one full day per year
- Attending relevant training courses and briefings to keep up to date with education policy
- Committing to read relevant papers and policies for governors' meetings
- Understanding and interrogating data to do with Financial or Academic Performance

We feel sure that there are parents prepared to take on this important role and give their time and commitment to helping us to continue to improve the school's performance. We very much hope that parents from all the many communities in the school would be interested in standing.

Anyone who has parental responsibility for a pupil on the school roll at the time of the election can stand for election, may nominate someone for election and may vote in the election. Roughly speaking, parental responsibility means someone with whom the child is living, but if you are not sure about this, please contact the school office who will be able to explain in more detail.

The school office should receive all nominations by **12pm Wednesday, 25th January 2023**. These can be sent to info@ashmount.islington.sch.uk or handed in to the office directly. You do not need a seconder and you can nominate yourself. Every nomination, however, must be signed by the candidate stating that s/he is willing to stand. Candidates are also asked to complete pro-forma candidacy statements which will be made available to the parent body who will use them to decide which candidates to vote for. Candidates are unable to withdraw from the election once ballot papers have been circulated.

Ballot papers and election statements will then be sent home on **Friday, 27th January 2023**.

The closing date for the return of ballot papers will be **12pm Friday, 10th February 2023**. They will be counted that afternoon by the Chair and Business Manager. All candidates are invited to attend the count. The successful candidate will be duly notified and the outcomes published in that days school newsletter.

The returning officer for this election is Anthony Carmel. If you would like to know a little more about becoming a parent governor, you are welcome to speak to me, Jon the Chair of Governors, or to any other member of the Governing Board. There will be a meeting in the Music room for any candidates at **9 a.m. on Friday 20th January** for any parents who want to find more about becoming a Governor, or need support or guidance with their Governor election statement.

Yours faithfully,

Anthony Carmel (Headteacher)

Jon Harwood (Chair of Governors)