

## Shirley Infant School

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**Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day**

## Shirley Junior School



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October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Parent Governor Appointment

The Shirley Schools Local Governing Committee (LGC) has one vacancy for a parent governor. I am writing to invite you to stand for election as a parent governor, or nominate another parent to do so. All parents and carers of current Shirley Infant or Shirley Junior School pupils are eligible to stand, subject to the Disqualification Criteria enclosed with this letter.

School governors make a valuable contribution to children's education, opportunities and futures. Being a school governor is a challenging but hugely rewarding role. It will give you the chance to make a real difference to young people, give something back to your local community and use and develop your skills in a board-level environment.

All governors are vital to Shirley Infant and Junior Schools as part of the LGC offering strategic support and challenge to the schools. Parent governors share equally with other governors the responsibility for carrying out the LGC's responsibilities. You do not have to be an expert in education to be a school governor.

Governing bodies have three core strategic functions:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding the head teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils; and
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

There are six meetings each school year, either face to face at school, or online, and are currently in the evening from 6pm. Each meeting lasts around two hours. Governors usually serve a four-year term, which continues even if your child/children leave the schools during this period.

Governors also take on a "lead governor" responsibility for an area of governance. This may be Safeguarding, Inclusion, Behaviour, Wellbeing, or particular curriculum areas. Lead governors will build relationships with key members of the school staff and would regularly come in to school to speak to pupils, staff and parents to form a full picture of their particular area of focus.



On occasion governors may be asked to participate in a panel hearing related to staff or pupil disciplinary issues, HR issues, or complaints. Training is provided and governors are supported by experts from Hamwic Education Trust.

All governors are required to adhere to the Hamwic Education Trust's Code of Conduct for governors which is included with this letter.

If you would like any more information about the role of a school governor, there is lots of information at <https://www.inspiringgovernance.org/volunteers/>, or alternatively contact the clerk at [penny.collins@shirleyschools.co.uk](mailto:penny.collins@shirleyschools.co.uk).

If you would like to stand for election please complete the enclosed nomination form and eligibility questionnaire and return it to the school office, no later than **Wednesday 1 November 2023**, marked for the attention of Clerk to the Local Governing Committee. Please ask at the school office if you would like a printed version of the forms. You can also return the form and questionnaire by email to [penny.collins@shirleyschools.co.uk](mailto:penny.collins@shirleyschools.co.uk). You may also include a short personal statement to support your nomination, which should be no longer than 200 words. Self-nominations will be accepted but if you are nominating another parent, please seek their prior consent.

If there is more than one nomination, an election will be held electronically and confidentially. If that is necessary, details of the ballot procedure will be sent to all parents. If there is one nomination, the candidate will be elected unopposed.

Yours faithfully,



Peter Gould  
Chair of Governors

