

## **Becoming a Governor**

The role of a Governor is to be a 'critical friend' to the school. They should be strategic in their approach.

**Staff Governors** – St Wenn Governing Board has allocation for **2 Staff Governors**. The Head Teacher is automatically a Governor with the second being nominated by other members of staff when a vacancy becomes available. Should more than one member stand, a vote will be held via a secret ballot by members of staff. The candidate with the most votes will become the 'elected' Staff Governor. Should only one member stand unopposed, this person will be an 'appointed' Staff Governor. Notification on vacancies will be through Staff Communication meetings.

**Local Authority Governor** - LA Governors are appointed by Cornwall Council. Vacancies are handled by the Governing Board and suitable candidates are approached through known contacts, members of the community or expressions of interest. Skill suitability is considered following skills audits to ensure a wide skill set and representation on the Board. Nominations are sought, along with a supporting signature from a local County Councillor. St Wenn Governing Board has **1 LA Governor** position.

**Co-opted Governors** – St Wenn Board has allocation for **5 Co-opted Governors**. Prospective members are sought and considered through local known contacts or through expressions of interest made to the school or the Clerk to the Governing Board. St Wenn Governing Board appoints Co-opted Governors and as with LA and Parent Governors, suitability is considered following skills audits.

**Partnership Governors** St Wenn Board has **1 Partnership Governor**. Partnership governors are only required in foundation and foundation special schools that, in either case, do not have a foundation. St Wenn is a Foundation School -without a Foundation. The board is responsible for seeking nominations (either from the appropriate religious organisation, in the case of a school designated as having a religious character, or in other cases, from parents and such other persons in the community as they consider appropriate) and appointing partnership governors. Partnership governors must have the skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school. Certain categories of individuals cannot be a partnership governor e.g. parents of current pupils, school staff, and local authority employees involved in education.

Partnership governors act in the best interests of the foundation school and the wider community (and in the case of a school with a religious character have a role in relation to preserving and developing such religious character) but should not be required by others, such as the appointing board or community, to take a particular stance on issues discussed at board meetings

**Parent Governors** – St Wenn allocation for **Parent Governors is 2**. When a vacancy arises, details will be available through newsletters, on the website, through book bags and other notices with a defined closing date for applications and desired skills. Written expressions of interest on suitability, experience and skills must be given to the Head Teacher, who co-ordinates the process. If only one applicant comes forward, and considered by the Board, this applicant will be 'appointed' Parent Governor. Should more than one Parent be nominated, an election process shall take place and the person with most votes, from a secret ballot, shall be an 'elected' Parent Governor.

All Governor positions last for a term of 4 years and during this time, adhere to the Code of Conduct and Standing Orders. Statutory DBS and Criminal Disclosures will be undertaken at the start of the term of office. Any interests e.g financial, service, relationships etc should be declared annually on a

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest Form, details of which will be displayed on the school website. Resignations should be made in writing to the Clerk. Training is available on the responsibilities of being a school Governor through Induction Parts 1 and 2. A Mentor will be appointed to help advise and develop new Governors to the Board and support shall be available through the Clerk and other Governors. Employers are encouraged to allow staff members time to carry out their responsibilities as Governors, without financial penalties. Governors can be removed from their positions by the Governing Board for a number of reasons e.g attendance or misconduct. Should anyone be interested in becoming a Governor, please read the Governor Handbook to give you some idea. Alternatively, please discuss with the Head Teacher, Chair of Governors- Richard Fenwick (rfenwick@st-wenn.cornwall.sch.uk) or the Clerk – Jo Trudgian (clerk@st-wenn.cornwall.sch.uk)