



Dear Parent / Carer

ELECTION OF A PARENT GOVERNOR

We are seeking to appoint a parent governor to join Stokesley School's Local Governing Body (LGB). As you know, the school is a member of Areté Learning Trust and, as such, responsibility for the overall governance of the schools in the Trust rests with the Board of Directors. Many Multi Academy Trusts do not have local governing bodies. However, we are committed to local representation and choose to have LGBs for all Areté Learning Trust schools: in effect the LGBs are committees of the Board.

What Do Governors Do?

The LGB provides support and challenge to the senior leaders in the school and holds them to account for the school's performance in areas including teaching and learning, examination results, students' wellbeing, safeguarding and effective leadership. LGB members also sit on panels, when they are needed, for review of complaints, personnel or behaviour issues.

Who can be a Parent Governor?

The term "parent" includes anyone who has custody of a child registered at the school. Parents can stand for election and vote in secret in the election, if a ballot is needed.

Do Parent Governors have special responsibilities?

No. Parent Governors do not have particular duties. All governors are equally responsible and, most importantly, discharge their responsibilities as a body, not individually. The Parent Governors speak as parents - they do not speak for all, or on behalf of, parents. All members of an LGB act in the best interests of the school/Trust as a whole and not as a representative of any group, even if elected as a parent.

Are there any restrictions which could disqualify parents from becoming Parent Governors?

Yes, but they are unlikely to apply to the vast majority of parents considering becoming a parent governor. The restrictions are contained in the School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2012 and subsequent amendment Regulations. Parents putting themselves forward for election will be required to sign a self-declaration form and return it with their nomination form. If any of the restrictions apply, you should not proceed with your nomination as a governor. You are also disqualified from election or appointment as a parent governor if you are an elected member of the local authority, or if you are paid to work at the school for more than 500 hours in any twelve-month period commencing on 1 August and finishing on 31 July). Governors are subject to enhanced DBS checks and the elected parent(s) will be provided with an electronic form to complete and to provide proof of identity (as detailed in the list of Valid Identity Documents). The term of





office of the successful candidate will only commence once a clear enhanced DBS Disclosure has been received and checked. If you have any concerns about this, please don't hesitate to contact me – any queries will be treated as confidential.

How are Parent Governors elected?

Parent Governors must be people (aged at least 18) who have a child or children at the school when they are elected. Interested candidates should complete the attached nomination form which includes a short statement (of no more than 250 words) about themselves outlining the skills and experience which will help them to contribute to the future work of the LGB. This must be emailed to me by 12 Noon on Friday 18th January 2024 – governance@aretelearningtrust.org

We are keen to recruit governors who have skills and/or experience from different walks of life to enhance the contribution the LGB can make to the leadership of the school, to ensure that the LGB is as representative as possible of the school, and applications from all parents passionate about improving outcomes for our young people. I would emphasise that, in the case of a Parent Governor, the Trust Board does not select the best candidate – this will be determined by the parents who will vote if we have more than one nominee per position. In that event, there will be a secret ballot.

I hope you find this information helpful but if you have any questions about the Trust, the election process, or the role of the LGB, please do not hesitate to contact me on 07484079565.

Yours faithfully

Paul White
Trust Governance Lead

