Being a Parent Governor at

Mount Carmel RC Primary

Your role as a parent and governor is no different to that of the other governors. You have equal rights and status with all other governors and you are not restricted in your role to matters of parental interest. Being a parent governor involves achieving a delicate balance of roles. Parents can now join governing bodies by two routes; they can be elected by fellow parents or be appointed as co-opted governors based on their skills. Whether individuals are elected or appointed to either category they do not carry an obligation to express any views apart from their own and do not represent the parent body. However they hold the unique position of having a parental viewpoint. Through your children you will have first-hand experience of the curriculum and how the school is perceived from their point of view.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Parent governors are:** | **Parent governors are not:** |
|  Well placed to understand parents’ views and to remind the governing body how matters being discussed affect parents; |  Expected to gather the views of other parents and take them to the governing body; |
| Individuals – how you vote on any decision is up to you; | Simply expected to represent the interests of parents; |
| In a good position to help the governing body to communicate effectively with parents; |  A link between parents and the governing body; |
| Equal in status to all other governors. | Expected to vote as instructed by other parents. |

**What do I have to do as a Parent Governor?**

 - Attend governing body meetings regularly and play an active role in committees and decision-making.

 - Learn all you can about the school.

 - Consider how the governing body communicate with parents? Could you help them to improve links?

 - Learn how the school handles complaints and read the complaints policy. If another parent approaches you with a complaint, advise them to speak to the head teacher.

**What are the good bits about being a Parent Governor?**

 - You have a very privileged and responsible role.

 - You have the opportunity to make a difference, not only for your children, but for children in years to come.

 - You have the opportunity to make a difference for other parents and to influence the way in which school works with them.

 - You will learn a lot and develop new skills.

**Who are we looking for?**

 Our Governing Body already has a range of people who each bring a range of skills and expertise, for example knowledge of safeguarding, buildings, employment law, health, education, management or finance. All of these different people with varied skills come together to help me, the Head teacher, to run the school in the best way we can for our children and families. Our Governors are also the guardians of our Catholic ethos, some of them appointed by Bishop John to do so.

We need people like you who care deeply that our school is the best it can be and who can bring your skills and expertise to help make the decisions that will ensure that remains so in the future.

So if you feel that you could be the right person for our school come and speak to Mrs Potts and put yourself forward for nomination.

Thank you for your interest in making our school the best it can be!

****