



Dear Parent / Carer

## **ELECTION OF PARENT GOVERNOR**

We are seeking to appoint a Parent Governor to join the Nunthorpe School Committee. As you know, the school is now a member of Arété Learning Trust and, as such, responsibility for the overall governance of the schools in the Trust rests with the Board of Trustees. Many Multi Academy Trusts do not have a local layer of governance however we are committed to local representation and choose to have School Committees or Cluster Committees for all Arété Learning Trust schools: in effect the School Committees are committees of the Board. **What Do Governors Do?** The School/Cluster Committee 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. School/Cluster Committee members also sit on panels, when they are needed, for review of complaints 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.~~

Parent Governors are collectively 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 a School/Cluster Committee 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 do not 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 School/Cluster. This must be emailed to the governance clerk by 12 Noon on 31 March 2025 [mfisher@arete.uk](mailto:mfisher@arete.uk)

We are keen to recruit governors who have skills and/or experience from different walks of life to enhance the contribution the School/Cluster Committee can make to the leadership of the school, to ensure it is as representative as possible of the school(s), 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 School/Cluster Committee, please do not hesitate to contact me on 07484079565.

Yours faithfully



Paul White  
Trust Governance Manager

