



The Nelson Thomlinson School
Wigton
Cumbria
CA7 9PX

...still "outstanding"
(Ofsted, May 2013)

Tel: 016973 42160
Fax: 016973 49160
Email: admin@nts.cumbria.sch.uk
www.nts.cumbria.sch.uk

Headmaster:
Mr DS Northwood, M.A., M.Ed.

11th March 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

The Governing Body is responsible for both the conduct of the school and for promoting high standards. The Governing Body carries out its role by setting the vision for the school and then ensuring that the school works efficiently and effectively towards achieving its vision. It does this by building a thorough knowledge of the school and its community, by both supporting and constructively challenging the school, and by ensuring accountability and compliance. The Governing Body of our school is made up of Parent Governors, Staff Governors, Foundation Governors, a Local Authority Governor and Co-Opted Governors.

A vacancy has arisen for a Parent Governor on our Governing Body (please see attached). The Governing Body is asking you to nominate someone with parental responsibility for a child at the school. If it receives more than one nomination, then a ballot will be held.

Before you decide to nominate someone, or indeed stand yourself, you may want to know a bit more about what is involved. Governors need not be experts in the field of education. What they do need is an interest in the school and in the welfare of our children and the time and willingness to get involved. The specific skills we are looking for in a Governor at this point are:

- An ability to understand data (eg attendance figures and examination results) presented in spreadsheets, tables and charts
- The potential to chair committee meetings
- An interest in the Curriculum – with the opportunity to be the link Governor for one or two subjects, preferably ICT and Art
- An interest and understanding of the pastoral work of a secondary school
- An understanding of the confidential nature of some information

Governors also need what is known as 'soft skills' – the ability to be able to build relationships with a range of people, to be able to work as part of a team, to be able to question, and to make connections between different types of information. All Governors are expected to be able to read simple budget reports and data on school standards.

Our Governing Body expects Governors to:

- attend two meetings in the academic year of the full Governing Body
- sit on a Committee(s) of their choice (Curriculum, Teaching and Learning, Pastoral and Community, Health and Safety or Finance) and attend the meetings which are usually one a term
- visit the school formally for monitoring purposes at least 2 or 3 times a term/year

- visit the school informally at least 2 or 3 times a year
- commit to attend training courses, perform additional research as required and take part in monitoring in their chosen subject areas within the school

In return, our Governing Body commits to:

- provide you with a structured induction
- provide access to quality training
- provide you with an experienced Governor as mentor
- provide informal feedback on your contribution to the governing body on a bi-annual basis

If you would like to find out more about how you can contribute to governance at our school, please email me with your contact details and I will pass on your details to the Chair who will then arrange a time for a conversation.

Yours sincerely

Dawn T Richmond
Clerk to the Governors

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