**The Role of the Parent Governor**

Parent Governors hold the unique position of having a parental viewpoint of the school. Through their children they have a first-hand experience of the delivery of the curriculum, and how the school is perceived from a parental point of view.

Before a parent decides to nominate themselves for the role there are a few things to note:

* It is important for Parent Governors to establish a rapport with the parental body which elected him/her, whilst continuing to maintain a strategic approach to school governance.
* It is vital that Parent Governors do not become personally involved in individual concerns as no Governor has the authority to act individually on behalf of the school.
* Parent Governors are representative parents rather than representatives of parents
* Being a Governor takes up time – there are approximately 7 meetings per school year, the majority of which are held on Mondays from 6pm – 8.30pm. You will also need to set aside time to prepare for meetings, visit the school and undertake training.

Effective ways to act as an impartial representative parent include:

* Making yourself known to the parent body
* Attending in-service training sessions
* Listen impartially to concerns raised by parents
* Guide parents regarding appropriate lines of actions and procedures
* Play an active part in governor meetings
* Present a balanced view of issues, representing different sections of the community

Although this is a very delicate role there will be support and training available. Effective Parent Governors will find working alongside the other members of the governing body both interesting and rewarding in that their efforts will ensure that the work of the governing body fulfils its duties to all children.