

THE WHITE HORSE FEDERATION

Joining The White Horse Federation

Become a Parent Governor



Our Governors are proud to be part of The White Horse Federation Multi-Academy Trust

Welcome to The White Horse Federation

The White Horse Federation is a not-for-profit Multi-Academy Trust. We support and sponsor Primary, Secondary and Special Schools across Wiltshire, Swindon, Oxfordshire and Berkshire.

Our shared vision of excellence through partnership means we are committed to supporting and celebrating what makes a school great - the kind of place every member of our Trust would be proud to send their own children to.

The White Horse Federation combines a strong drive for academic excellence with a shared moral purpose and core values. We believe schools should be places of both high achievement and genuine happiness. By working in partnership with our schools, pupils, families and communities, we help create the best possible outcomes for every child.

We support and empower our staff through high quality training, development and career opportunities, enabling us to attract and retain outstanding staff who are leaders in their field. This ensures every student can reach their full potential - regardless of their background, culture, heritage or ability.

A Parent Governor

We are seeking a person who:

- Currently has a child or children in our school
- Has an open and enquiring mind
- Shows a willingness to listen and make informed judgements
- Is able to work well with others
- Is interested in education generally and our school in particular
- Has a desire to play a part in improving our school
- Is willing to give up to 15 hours per term to attend meetings and training

If you match the above description, you could be the very person to become a parent governor. Everyone has something to offer and we want people from as many backgrounds and interests as possible.

In return we can offer:

- An insight into the wider perspective of the school through long-term planning.
- A chance to develop skills in strategic leadership.
- Training to develop an understanding of specific school leadership issues.
- A sense of achievement in making a difference to our school.
- The pleasure of seeing children thrive and become successful learners.
- The opportunity to work with our team of Trustees, Governors and staff in improving our school.



The Role

The LGC is a committee of the Board of Trustees and has an assurance role. We provide support and challenge to the school's leadership on behalf of the Trustees.

The role of the Local Governance Committee (LGC) of our school:

- Supporting the Executive Leaders and Headteacher in their monitoring role, within the context of the school's key performance indicators.
- Supporting the Executive Leaders in their role regarding duty of care for Headteachers.
- Supporting the Headteachers in their role regarding duty of care for staff.
- Understanding and supporting the strategic planning undertaken by the Headteacher, SLT and the executives of TWHF.
- Adding strength and integrity to evidence cited by the leadership team through; questioning, visiting to see for yourself, and considering triangulated evidence.
- Collaborating with governors and school leadership teams from other TWHF schools as well as Trustees and Executive Leaders to consider the impact of decisions.
- Keeping up with national and local 'landscapes' affecting schools.



Expectations

Link to the Community

Governors are the link between the school and the community. We need governors who represent all those with an interest in the wellbeing and reputation of the school.

Valued Time

We are all busy people but we volunteer so we can help to improve education in the local community. Our work also provides us with personal development.

Teamwork

We work together as a team, with a collective responsibility.

Diversity and Inclusion

Local Governance Committees seek individuals from as many different backgrounds as possible, to reflect the community the school serves. Everyone has something to offer. Free training is available to develop an understanding of strategic school improvement.



Responsibilities

Representing Parents

As a parent governor you will be a governor in your own right, with the same responsibilities as everyone else, to work together as part of the Local Governance Committee for the good of the school.

Objectivity is essential. You are not there to promote the interests of your own children, but all children. You do not have to vote in a particular way because you have been pressed to do so by other parents.

Sometimes a parent governor may be approached with a concern. Parent governors are not there to provide an alternative route to addressing individual parental concerns, although if you do become aware of more widespread disquiet about the school's policy and practice then you should alert the Headteacher and Chair.

Making a Difference

Governors can make a significant difference to the performance of the school. We have a real part to play in making the school successful.

As an effective governor you will:

- Support, challenge and monitor the priorities which are outlined in the School Development Plan
- Work in partnership with the headteacher, school's senior leadership team and cooperatively with other governors, to raise standards and improve outcomes for all children.
- Prepare for meetings by reading papers beforehand.
- Take responsibility for your own learning and development, as a governor, including attending training.
- Attend Local Governance Committee meetings promptly, regularly, and for the full time.
- Read briefings and newsletters for governors; present a balanced view of issues representing different sections of the community.
- Promote the interests of the school in the wider community.
- Respect the confidentiality of Local Governance Committee affairs.
- Be loyal to the decisions made by the Local Governance Committee.
- Never promise to 'solve a problem' on your own.
- Never press your own child's case at the expense of others.
- Declare an interest and withdraw from any meeting where you, a partner or close relative or associate stands to gain, or where you are so close to a matter discussed it is difficult to be impartial.
- Abide by the LGC code of conduct and work within the LGC terms of reference.
- Use the Nolan Principles of Public Life*, as guidance for your governor role.

*For information visit: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-7-principles-of-public-life/the-7-principles-of-public-life--2

Proud to be a part of
The White Horse Federation



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