

Part of the Embark Multi Academy Trust

Holmes Street, Heanor, Derbyshire DE75 7FS

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Website: www.howittprimary.org.uk

Headteacher: Lynn Pilling

November 2022

Dear parents/carers

Could you become a parent governor?

The role of a school governor is to contribute to the work of the Local Governing Board in raising standards of achievement for all pupils and promoting best practice in the school.

This involves:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding the school leaders to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

The individual governor has a responsibility, working alongside other members of the Local Governing Board, to the staff and pupils of the school and the school's wider community. Governors must have an interest in our children's future, be willing to contribute and make a difference, respect the need for confidentiality and be able to work as part of a team. Governors must act with integrity, objectivity and honesty and in the best interests of the school. Although this role is voluntary, it does require a large time commitment.

What governors do:

Governors are volunteers who attend meetings and work to further the school's development. The "Local Governing Teams/Boards" are accountable to the Embark Multi-Academy Trust Trustees. They have in place a "Scheme of Delegation and Accountability Framework" setting out the powers and responsibilities which the Trustees ask their Local Governing Teams/Boards to exercise on their behalf

Together with the headteacher, responsibilities of our governing board include:

- Building an effective team
- Providing support and challenge to the school
- Providing assurance to the Trust Board of the Embark Multi-Academy Trust
- Developing the school's Strategic Plan
- Determining aims, policies and priorities
- Monitoring, evaluating and record keeping
- Overseeing the use of the school's budget

Governors provide the headteacher with support and advice, drawing on their own knowledge and experience. Local governors are appointed to ask focussed questions, contribute to support improvement plans and, as a team, are crucial in the role of critical friends to the school through supportive governance.

How much time does it take up?

The amount of time each person gives to the role will vary. However, as a minimum, you will need to be willing to:

- Prepare for meetings. There will be papers which need to be read in advance.
- Attend meetings.
- Undertake school visits during the day.
- Undertake mandatory training (primarily safeguarding).

Throughout the school year, we have 6 main board meetings and 3 Children & Learning focus meetings. Meetings normally start at 5:30pm and last no longer than 3 hours. Additional meetings and training sessions may be called during the year if they are deemed necessary.

As a full-time worker will I still have time to be a school governor?

Many governors are in full-time work and most Local Governing Team/Board meetings tend to take place in the evening. Also, bear in mind that you might want to spend time getting to know the school in other ways and joining in its activities, which may take place during the daytime.

Support for governors

- As a new school governor, you can receive a nationally designed induction programme covering roles and responsibilities
- There will be subsequent training on a wide range of activities
- Each governing board has a clerk to provide administrative and procedural support
- The Embark Multi-Academy Trust also has a named Governance Lead who offers support to governors

Interested but still not sure?

If you are interested but not sure if this role is for you then please feel free to contact the headteacher, Mrs Pilling, or the co-chairs of governors for more details. They will be more than pleased to speak to you, to give you an open and honest overview of the role and what is required. A nomination form (seconded and signed by one other parent) and a personal statement must be completed and returned by close of the school day on Friday 2 December.

Headteacher – enquiries@howitt.derbyshire.sch.uk or via the school office

Co-Chairs – Carolyn Wood - C.Wood@howitt.derbyshire.sch.uk

Jane Bowley - J.Bowley@howitt.derbyshire.sch.uk