

Children's Services

Governor Support Team

5 Portland Square • CARLISLE • Cumbria • CA1 1PU

Tel 01228 606925 • Fax 01228 606920

Email jacqueline.pelham@cumbriacc.gov.uk

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Dear Parent

PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTION - BRAMPTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Arrangements for the holding of a parent governor election are required as there are three vacancies for parent governors at your school. The main purpose of this letter is to provide you with information concerning the election procedure.

THE NOMINATION OF PARENTS AS CANDIDATES

Each parent * of a pupil attending the school is to be given the opportunity of putting their name forward with a view to becoming a parent governor. If you want to submit a nomination on your behalf you should do so, in writing, to the Head of the school. Two sponsors who must also be parents of children currently attending the school must countersign letters of nomination. **The CLOSING DATE for the receipt of nominations by the school is Monday 19th October, 2009.**

In the event of there being no more than three nominations, the persons nominated will automatically become parent governors.

THE ELECTION PROCEDURE

If the school receives more than three nominations then an election by secret ballot will be held to allow parents to decide who they would like to represent them. Should an election be necessary, it will be held as soon as possible. Each parent * of a child who at the time of the election is a pupil at the school will be entitled to vote. Following an election, parents will be told by letter the name, address and telephone number of the successful candidate. In the event of an election, the headteacher will issue all parents with further details concerning the way in which the ballot (which will be entirely secret and as foolproof as possible) is to be organised and supply the official ballot papers.

CANDIDATES' PREPARATION FOR AN ELECTION

Candidates will be given the opportunity to write a short statement, which will be circulated to all parents of the school. Should candidates wish to seek support in any other way, this will be entirely their own responsibility.

TERM OF OFFICE OF PARENT GOVERNORS

An elected parent governor will normally hold office for a period of four years.

PARENTS' PARTICIPATION

I feel that it is very important for the efficiency and effectiveness of schools that parents should be encouraged to have an active involvement in their children's education. Consequently, I would urge all parents to participate and take an interest in the election process whether as candidates or voters. In this way all parents can have an effective voice concerning the running of their children's school and have a proper vehicle for the expression of their views regarding school policies.

Children's Services - 'A strong commitment to developing children's services and to improving the life chances of all young people in Cumbria' (Joint Area Review 2006)

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SCHOOL GOVERNMENT IN GENERAL

All new governors will be subject to clearance by the Criminal Records Bureau.

On appointment/election all governors receive documents to help them in their role as a school governor. In addition, the governors of Church of England and Roman Catholic schools are issued from time to time with further information specific to such schools by their respective Diocesan Authorities.

If you have any queries at this stage regarding the subject of parent governors, would you please contact the Head of the school who will be pleased to try to help you.

Yours sincerely

JACQUELINE PELHAM
Governor Support Team

* DEFINITION OF "PARENT"

Section 576 of the Education Act 1996 defines "parent" to include:

- all natural parents, whether they are married or not; and
- any person who, although not a natural parent, has *parental responsibility* for a child or young person; and

any person who, although not a natural parent, *has care* of a child or young person.