

## **Information about the planned appointment of parent governors to Cantrell's Governing Body:**

"The Role of the Cantrell Parent School Governor"

The Cantrell School Governing Body, before Easter, will be looking to elect two new Parent Governors. The information enclosed here tells you a little more about the role and commitment you would be making.

If you are interested, please contact the school on 0115 9155770 to arrange with Ralph Surman, a meeting with our Chair Andrew Moore and Vice Chair Nicola Curzon. We will be able to answer your questions and detail the information you will be required to submit for the parent election.

### What is the role of a Parent Governor?

Anyone who has parental responsibility for a pupil on the school roll at the time of election can stand for election and can vote in the election. A parent who works for the school for 500 hours or more per year or a parent who is an elected member of the local authority is not eligible to stand for election but they are permitted to nominate and vote. If insufficient parents stand for election the governing board can appoint parents to the governing board. The term of office for a parent governor is four years, although a governor can stand down at any time.

### Why become a parent governor?

Parents who have a child at Cantrell and who take an active interest in the education of all children at the school should consider becoming a parent governor. You should not take on this role because you have a particular concern about the education of an individual child. Parents may have a useful skill such as an expertise in finance that can be useful to the governing board. It is useful for parents to talk to other governors to find out what they think about the role and what is really involved before deciding if the role is one which they would like to take on. *What have they found challenging? What have they found rewarding?*

### What will parent governors have to do?

- take an active interest in education
- give time to find out about the school
- give time to learn about the role by attending induction training
- attend 6 meetings throughout the year and visit school at other times
- abide by the Code of Conduct and respect confidentiality
- undergo the pre-appointment checks including a DBS check, signing a Declaration of Eligibility form and completing a register of pecuniary interest.

### The Strategic Role

Some of the ways in which governors work together strategically:

- monitoring the schools' performance and working to raise standards and promote pupil welfare
- ensuring that the school is improving the achievement and attainment of all children
- making sure that pupils with special needs are properly catered for
- dealing with disciplinary issues of pupils and staff
- appointing the Headteacher
- monitoring work-life balance of the staff and Headteacher
- setting the budget
- helping to formulate policies
- accountability to parents by ensuring they have the information they are legally entitled to
- dealing with problems and agreeing solutions
- determining curriculum policy
- ensuring the school has sound self-evaluation processes in place