

GOVERNOR (Local Governing Body)

Candidate Information



'DREAM BIG, ACHIEVE TOGETHER'



Part of the Forest of Dean Trust (April 2020)



Dear Candidate

School Governor (Local Governing Body)

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for taking an interest in this vacancy at Drybrook School. This post is an interesting and essential position and as such you will play a key role within the school and the trust.

We are currently looking for new local governing body members to join us during this exciting time in the journey of Drybrook School. Our existing governors come from a range of different backgrounds, skills and experience, but all share a common interest of wanting the best possible education for the students at Drybrook.

We would be delighted to hear from anyone who:-

- Is interested in the education of children and the performance of the school
- Is community spirited and would like to represent both the school and community
- Has spare time and the energy for the role
- Is able to work well as part of a team
- Has an enquiring mind and the confidence to ask questions and debate issues that affect the school
- Can consider matters objectively and make informed judgements.

Why become a Governor for our school?

Being a school governor is a chance to experience leadership. The role provides individuals with the opportunity to develop and hone skills such as negotiation, influencing and teamwork. Volunteers need to be dedicated people who care about improving education, but they do not need prior board experience. It makes the role perfect for professionals looking to improve their business and leadership skills, give back to society and enhance children's futures.

The role of Governor is a vital position and one that ensure the continuous improvement of education within the school and holds the Headteacher to account.

In looking to fill this vacancy we are particularly interested in applications from people who can occasionally visit the school during the day, although please do not be put off if you do not have the capacity to do this during your working hours. What is more important is enthusiasm, interest and the willingness to learn.

If you would you like to help make a positive contribution to the education of our students and could use your work-place skills in partnership with our existing Governors to promote the continuous improvement of the school's performance, then Drybrook School would love to hear from you.

As you read the information in this pack, I hope you get a feel for what it means to be a 'Drybrook person'. We hold great stock in this phrase as we are looking for someone who acknowledges that we are never the finished article and we will always keep on learning. That person will also possess a very important attribute in inspiring others; a great sense of humour!

I look forward to hearing from you and thank you in advance for taking time to apply.

Yours sincerely

Stephen Brady
Chief Executive Officer of the Forest of Dean Trust

The Forest of Dean Trust's Governance

Members Board

Danny Haines (Chair)
Jim Peryer
Brian Robinson

Trustees Board

Matt Reid (Chair)
Louise Holland
Tony Rose
Matt Reid
Julian Grail
Meryon Roderick

Local Governing Board

Pete Adams (Chair)
Denise Hargreaves
Michala Reid
You!!

Clerk to Governors

Donna Smith

Meeting schedule for next year:

14 September 2021
23 November 2021 (AGM)
11 January 2022
8 March 2022
3 May 2022
14 June 2022

All meetings start at 5.30pm



Safeguarding Information

Drybrook School and the Forest of Dean Trust are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and would expect all staff to share this commitment. The school believes in equal opportunities and encourages all staff and children to be treated similarly, unhampered by artificial barriers or prejudices or preferences.

As a Trust we are committed to safety awareness and we undertake the following procedures:

We have DSL's trained to an enhanced level. All staff will require an enhanced DBS check, section 128 check and the prohibition register will be checked. We also have staff trained in Safer Recruitment.

Our Child Protection Policy can be found on our website under Policies.

JOB DESCRIPTION & PERSON SPECIFICATION

Title:	Governor—Local Governing Body
Contract:	Voluntary
Hours:	6 meetings per year, plus occasional visits to the school (if time allows)
Meetings:	Meetings are usually held on Tuesdays at 5.30pm

Governors for Schools exists to improve educational standards so that students and young people have the chance to realise their full potential. We believe the key to improving school performance is effective governance. By finding, nurturing and supporting a committed network of governors we help to drive systematic change in how we operate.

“Trustees and governors are, in my view, the unsung heroes of the system”

Sir Dave Carter (National Schools Commissioner)

What is the role of the local governing body?

Governors enable the school to run as effectively as possible, working alongside senior leaders and supporting teachers to provide excellent education to students. Being a school governor is a commitment to attending governing body meetings which consider issues such as setting the school vision, championing key areas and scrutinising outcomes. They are also involved in the school community, acting as critical friends to the headteacher and senior leaders. Governors bring a wide range of skills and expertise from their professional lives to the governing board and schools benefit greatly from working with skilled volunteers, for example anyone with experience of finance, law, premises management or human resources. A governor with business know-how can transform the running of a school.

As part of the local governing body for Drybrook School you will be a strategic part of its continuing success and development programme. Whilst the finance elements and strategic direction will be taken care of by the Trustees, you will play a vital role in:

- Finding evidence that demonstrates the improvements being made.
- Holding the Headteacher and school leaders to account for the educational performance of the school and its students.
- Become a “Champion” for a key element of the school e.g. gifted and talented students, literacy, numeracy, attendance, wellbeing (staff and students), ICT, SEN or pupil premium. Reviewing their progress and making sure they are getting the support and guidance needed from the school to maximise their full potential.
- Working under a clear framework so that every year group is a focus and learning more about the education system.
- You would also have the option to be part of, occasional, other meetings such as disciplinary and capability panels and the Head’s Professional Management Review (additional training would be given).

Governing body meetings are normally held once a term, on a Tuesday at 5.30pm, and whilst there are many important aspects of the role, the most important is the business that takes place at these meetings.

School visits also help governors to understand more about the school and the reality of school life. Governor visits to classrooms (if your time allows) are not a form of inspection, but serve as a clear monitoring function on the implementation of the school’s strategic planning.

What does the role offer you?

- A chance to develop your own personal skills.
- Access to a programme of free training in respect of education/governance matters.
- A sense of achievement in helping make a difference to children reaching their potential.
- The support and guidance from fellow governors.
- A chance for you to play a part in our journey and to champion Drybrook School as it makes its journey to greater heights.

INTRODUCTION TO THE TRUST AND DRYBROOK SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM

The Forest of Dean Trust was formed in April 2020 with Dene Magna School taking Drybrook Primary School and Nursery under its wing.

Dene Magna School is a successful, oversubscribed and high achieving nationally acclaimed 'Outstanding' Academy and Teaching School. Dene Magna also opened its Sixth Form College in September 2019.

Both schools are situated in a beautiful part of the country, enjoying easy links to surrounding towns and cities.

As a successful teaching school all staff, wherever they are within the Trust, have the opportunity to work alongside outstanding and supportive colleagues, to observe and share practice on a regular basis and develop pedagogy through reflection.

The Trust prides itself on excellent student behaviour and has a strong ethos about inclusion and diversity. We are passionate about our community and that includes staff work-life balance. All staff receive the highest level of support, have access to the very best in terms of resources and CPD and will be working in a community where they can really make a difference.

Our curriculum is tailored to meet the needs of our students that we serve, raising their aspirations and allowing them to pursue their dreams, with a particular emphasis on excellence and enjoyment. We listen, challenge and support each other while recognising that we all develop at a different pace and all experience a different journey.

Our community continues to thrive because of the relentless focus that we have on excellent teaching and learning.

At Drybrook we actively promote our central aim each and every day...

'Dream big, achieve together'.

HOW DO I APPLY?

The next step for you in joining us on this exciting journey is to complete the application form and send this, along with a detailed covering letter explaining why your skills and experience would make you the perfect candidate for this position at Drybrook School.

If you have any questions prior to you submitting your application please contact us at vacancies@FODT.co.uk or Julie Russell on 01594 546030.

Please do take the opportunity to come and visit us (for socially distanced tours) so we can share all the exciting things we are doing. Prospective candidates who would like to visit the school, should in the first instance contact: vacancies@FODT.co.uk

We can't wait to hear from you!

BE PART OF THEIR JOURNEY WITH US





OUR VISION, VALUES AND ETHOS

We work with our community and know that raising aspirations and supporting the pursuit of dreams is not straightforward. We listen, challenge and support and we know that everybody experiences a different journey. There is a genuine partnership between students, staff and parents/carers to support the pursuit of our vision. We have a relentless focus on excellent teaching and learning and, alongside our house system and a healthy dose of fun, we know that our community continues to thrive.

Our trust is founded upon the collective pursuit of our leading aim and our children know what that leading aim is. We know that life throws us many challenges and we aim to work in partnership so that we can learn about what lies ahead and prepare ourselves for our role in not just modern Britain, but the world. Progress is rarely linear, in life and school, and we are passionate that our broad and balanced curriculum complements our pastoral care and pedagogy.

The trust is built upon excellent relationships, honest conversations and unwavering support to get the best out of each other. Staff work together to improve their teaching, students are actively involved in leadership across the school and parents are listened to and supported in our shared journey.

The modern world is a complex place and we seek to equip our students with the skills to thrive and to make a difference. We acknowledge that school years from primary right through to further education are a minefield to navigate and we support parents/carers in their journey, but we relish the opportunity we have been given to influence the lives of young people in the Forest of Dean.

If you visit Drybrook School you will see that there is a simple, common-sense approach to working with children that is founded on giving and getting respect. Our staff love their jobs and we work hard to instil that love of our school into our children and the wider community. We are very serious about our role within the community and we are an active presence within it.



ALL THROUGH JOURNEY...

Being part of the Forest of Dean Trust means children have not only excellent provision for their early years but also a seamless transition to secondary school at Dene Magna School and further education at Dene Magna's Sixth Form.

TRAVELLING TIMES TO GET TO US (approximate).



DRYBROOK PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Email: vacancies@FODT.co.uk

www.drybrookschool.co.uk

