



DARWEN VALE HIGH SCHOOL

An Aldridge Community Academy 

Dear Parent and Carers,

Become a Parent Governor at Darwen Vale High School

There is a vacancy for a parent governor on the local governing committee at Darwen Vale High School and we would like you to think about applying to become a parent governor.

Academy governors are people who want to make a positive contribution to children's education and their life chances.

This letter gives some background to the role and answers some of the questions you may have, but if you are interested and would like to ask more questions or talk to another governor about what being a governor entails please email the clerk to governors at ckenyon@darwenvale.com. You can find out more information about the academy at www.darwenvale.com and about the Trust at www.aldridgeeducation.org

Who else is on the governing body?

There are Trust Governors appointed by Aldridge Education Trust and staff governors as well as the Principal. The governors themselves may also appoint additional governors with specific expertise by agreement.

What does a governor do?

A governor works as part of a team to help give strategic support to the academy, and to hold the academy and the governors accountable for their responsibilities. They provide challenge and support for the Principal and staff. The governing body does not get involved in the day to day running of the academy - that is the Principal's responsibility.

Do I have any legal responsibilities?

As Darwen Vale is part of a multi academy trust, the members of the governing body have their responsibilities delegated to them by the Trustees of the Aldridge Education Trust. The governing body is responsible, on behalf of the Trustees, for ensuring that the academy meets all its statutory requirements in matters such as safeguarding, health and safety and financial regulations and is accountable to them. All legal responsibilities lie with Trustees.

How much time does it take?

There are approximately six Local Governing Committee meetings per year to attend plus you will need some time beforehand to read the papers. Sometimes you might be asked to help interview a senior teacher, or attend a meeting to review student discipline for example. You will also be invited to academy events. You should probably allow about 8 or so hours a month on average.

Can you work full-time and be a governor?

Yes you can. All our current governors work full time. Some meetings are held outside work hours and you are entitled to some time off work to be a governor and attend meetings.

Why do you want parents to be governors?

Parents often understand a school in a different way from other governors and play a vital role in helping the school meet the needs of the communities it serves.

How is an academy governor different from that of a local authority school?

The role is similar, both provide strategic support to the Principal and their staff however an academy does not report to the local authority. The academy receives funding from the Department for Education (DfE) via

Darwen Vale High School, Blackburn Road, Darwen, BB3 0AL | Tel: 01254 223000 |

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Aldridge Education is registered in England & Wales number 05670663

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the Education Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and reports directly to the ESFA. An academy has more freedom than a local authority school to manage its affairs – this includes the budget, curriculum and staffing.

I am interested but don't have any experience. Do you train people to be governors?

Yes all new governors are offered training on the role of being a governor through the NGA via the online portal Learning links. There are a range of training options for governors covering various aspects of being an academy governor plus other training opportunities for the Local Governing Committee that may be published from time to time.

Who can stand as a parent governor?

Anyone with parental responsibility for a student currently attending Darwen Vale can stand. The student can be in any year group.

If I want to be considered for parent governor what happens next?

If you have any questions or would like to meet up with a governor to find out more about the role before applying, please email ckenyon@darwenvale.com Otherwise please fill in the application form and ask another parent to nominate you. Full details of the election process are enclosed.

I don't come into Darwen Vale and see other parents so I'm not sure who I could ask to nominate me.

Email C Kenyon and she can arrange for you to meet with a parent from Darwen Vale who can nominate you.

Is anyone prevented from applying to be a parent governor?

Yes - if you work for the Local Authority for more than 500 hours a year or are an elected member of the Local Authority you aren't allowed to stand. Also if you are bankrupt, have been disqualified as a trustee or have been to prison for more than 3 months you aren't eligible to stand, though you can still nominate someone else.

I don't know what kind of information to put in my supporting statement

This is just to tell other parents about you to help them choose who to vote for. You could tell them that you are a parent with children in a particular year, why you are interested in being a governor, plus any relevant experience or interests you have. You may also have community links, experience of the outside world and an independent view. If you would like some help with putting your statement together please contact the clerk.

What else would you expect me to do?

- actively support the ethos and values of Darwen Vale and the Aldridge Education Trust
- work as a member of the governing body (not as an individual) in the best interests of the academy setting aside any personal interests you may have
- show an interest in academy activities
- become well-informed about education in general and about our academy in particular
- become familiar with the rules of academy governance
- keep up to date with changes in education legislation
- maintain confidentiality at all times.

What will I get out of being a governor?

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You will have the knowledge that you are helping our students and the satisfaction of giving something back to the community. We want it to give you a sense of purpose and achievement and some new skills which may be useful elsewhere

What else would you like me to offer apart from my time?

We would like you to bring a willingness to learn, a listening ear and enquiring mind, plus the ability to assimilate information, make judgements, take decisions and be part of a team.

We do hope you are interesting in standing and look forward to receiving your application.

Kind regards

Ian Richardson,
Chair of Governors, on behalf of the Local Governing Committee

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