**SOME QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PROSPECTIVE PARENT GOVERNORS**

**What is the composition of the Governing Body?**

There are 8 Governors at Valley Primary School and these are listed on the school website. The Chair of Governors and the other Community Governor also serve as Trustees. The Staff Governors are made up of the Headteacher, Teaching Governor and Support Staff Governor. The remainder of the Governing Body is made up of three Parent Governors.

The Clerk to the Governors and the Deputy Headteacher normally attend Governors’ meetings, and other staff are sometimes invited too.

**How much time will it take up?**

Meetings of the Governing Body are held once a term from 6.00 - 8.00 pm. Sub-Committees usually meet once a term, at 6pm.There are occasional evening (7.00 – 9.00 pm) training sessions, usually held on

specific topics. You will need to spend some time reading the agenda, the minutes and other papers to prepare for a meeting. Governor appointments are for a period of four years.

**Can I get help to understand what happens at meetings?**

Yes: the Chair will meet new Governors before their first meeting to talk through the agenda. If you feel it would be helpful, we could provide you with another Governor as a “mentor” to help you through the first few meetings. Governor Induction training can also be organised if necessary.

**Do I get paid for being a Governor?**

No. All school Governors are unpaid volunteers.

**What do governors actually do?**

Governors are responsible for the strategic direction of the school: they make long term decisions about the progress and development of the school. Governors help to appoint the senior staff, they make decisions about the school’s budget and they decide on policies for every aspect of the school.

Governors ensure that the school provides the highest standard of education for every child.

Governors are not involved in the operational running of the school. The daily management of the school is the responsibility of the Headteacher.

**Can I talk to parents or other people about what goes on in meetings?**

You can talk about matters in a very general way, but you must not identify any individual member of staff or any child. As the Governing Body acts as a “corporate body” you cannot talk about any differences of opinion during the meeting, you can only report the final decision of the Governing Body. Part of the agenda is strictly confidential (it covers discipline, exclusions and similar items) and you must not talk about anything discussed in that section. Governors are asked to agree to a Code of Conduct that will be explained at your first meeting. It is important to stress that Parent Governors speak **as** parents at Governor Meeting and do not speak for **all** parents.

**What are the benefits of becoming a Governor?**

You will learn how the school manages its budget, personnel and buildings, and how school policies are developed.

**Are there any restrictions on becoming a Governor?**

Governors must be over 18 years of age; not be bankrupt, nor have served a long prison sentence nor have been disqualified from working with children. All Governors are required to sign a declaration to this effect and a DBS Check will be carried out in line with the school’s safeguarding procedures.

**If I enjoy being a governor here, can I become a governor of other schools?**

Yes, you can be a member of another school Governing Body but you cannot be a member of more than two.