

The Laurels Primary School

Clerk to the governing body

JOB DESCRIPTION

What is the purpose of the job?

- ◆ Provide advice to the governing body on governance, constitutional and procedural matters that reflect DMAT governance and rules that govern academies. The new regulations require governing bodies to have regard to advice from the clerk in regards to exercising the governing body functions.
- ◆ The clerk will:-
 - Provide effective administrative support to the governing body and its committees
 - Ensure the governing body is properly constituted
 - Manage information effectively in accordance with legal requirements
 - Produce agendas and minutes for all governing body meetings in line with Trust guidelines

What are the job particulars?

- ◆ Salary DMAT casual rate of pay £9.99 per hour
- ◆ Reports to Chair of Governors, Head Teacher
- ◆ This is a part-time, most of which will be required to be undertaken in the evening.
- ◆ There are 6 meetings each year starting at 5pm and last approx. 2 hours

Activities – what do you have you have to do?

- ◆ Advise the governing body on governance legislation and procedural matters where necessary before, during and after meetings;
- ◆ Act as the first point of contact for governors with queries on procedural matters;
- ◆ Have access to appropriate legal advice, support and guidance, and where necessary seek advice and guidance from third parties on behalf of the governing body;
- ◆ Inform the governing body of any changes to its responsibilities as a result of a change in school status or changes in the legislation;
- ◆ Offer advice on best practice in governance, including on committee structures and self-evaluation;
- ◆ Ensure that statutory policies are in place and are revised when necessary, with the assistance of staff;
- ◆ Advise on the annual calendar of governing body meetings and tasks;
- ◆ Send new governors induction materials and ensure they have access to appropriate documents, including any agreed Code of Practice;

- ◆ Contribute to the induction of governors taking on new roles, in particular chair or chair of a committee.
- ◆ With the chair and headteacher prepare a focused agenda for the governing body meeting and committee meetings;
- ◆ Liaise with those preparing papers to make sure they are available on time and distribute the agenda and papers as required by legislation or other regulations;
- ◆ Ensure as far as possible that meetings are quorate and inform the Chair and Headteacher if this looks unlikely;
- ◆ Record the attendance of governors at meetings (and any apologies – whether they have been accepted or not), and take appropriate action in relation to absences, including advising absent governors of the date of the next meeting;
- ◆ Draft minutes of governing body meetings, indicating who is responsible for any agreed action with timescales, and send drafts to the chair and (if agreed by the governing body), the headteacher;
- ◆ Circulate the reviewed draft to all governors (members of the committee) and any other relevant bodies, such as the local authority as agreed by the governing body and within the timescales agreed with the governing body;
- ◆ Follow up any agreed action points with those responsible and inform the chair of progress
- ◆ Advise governors and appointing bodies in advance of the expiry of a governor's term of office, so elections or appointments can be organised in a timely manner;
- ◆ Chair that part of the meeting at which the chair is elected, giving procedural advice concerning conduct of this and other elections;
- ◆ Maintain a register of governor pecuniary interests and ensure the record of governors' business interests is reviewed regularly and lodged within the school;
- ◆ Ensure Disclosure and Barring (DBS) has been carried out on any governor in conjunction with the Director of HR of the Trust;
- ◆ Maintain a record of training undertaken by members of the governing body;
- ◆ Maintain governor attendance records and advise the chair of potential disqualification through lack of attendance;
- ◆ Advise the governing body on succession planning (of all roles, not just the chair)
- ◆ Maintain up to date records of the names, addresses and category of governing body members and their term of office, and inform the governing body and any relevant authorities of any changes to its membership;
- ◆ Maintain copies of current terms of reference and membership of any committees and working parties and any nominated governors e.g. Child-protection, SEND;
- ◆ Maintain a record of signed minutes of meetings in school and ensure copies are sent to relevant bodies on request and are published as agreed at meetings;
- ◆ Maintain records of governing body correspondence;
- ◆ Ensure copies of statutory policies and other school documents approved by the governing body are kept in the school and published as agreed, for example, on the website.
- ◆ Ensure that statutory information relating to governors and their attendance at meetings etc is displayed on the school website.
- ◆ Undertake appropriate and regular training and development to maintain knowledge and improve practice;
- ◆ Keep up to date with current educational developments and legislation affecting school governance;

- ◆ Participate in regular performance management.
- ◆ The clerk may be asked to undertake the following additional duties:
- ◆ Clerk any statutory appeal committees/panels the governing body is required to convene;
- ◆ Assist with the elections of parent and staff governors
- ◆ Participate in and contribute to the training of governors in areas appropriate to the clerking role;
- ◆ Maintain a file of relevant Department for Education (DfE) and local authority (if appropriate) guidance documents;
- ◆ Maintain archive materials;
- ◆ Prepare briefing papers for the governing body, as necessary;
- ◆ Conduct skills audits and advise on training requirements and the criteria for appointing new governors relevant to vacancies;
- ◆ Perform such other tasks as may be determined by the governing body from time to time.