

29 March 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Update on Governance structure for TCS Exeter Road and Parent Governor Vacancies

Currently TCS Mill Lane and Exeter Road have a single local governing body that reports to the Osprey Learning Trust. To recognise the different needs and challenges the two schools face, and the opportunities arising from the merger of Osprey Learning Trust and Estuaries Multi Academy Trust, the governing body have decided it is in the best interest to create separate governing bodies for each school.

This is an exciting change and something we have been working towards for some time. It will enable the governors for Exeter Road to work more closely with the school and be secondary specific; with the Mill Lane governing body being purely primary focused, and this will create one parent governor vacancy for Exeter Road which I would now like to advertise to you.

This is a challenging but ultimately very rewarding volunteer role that provides a valuable contribution to our school community. If you, or another Exeter Road parent/carer you know, might be interested in this opportunity we'd love to hear from you. If you are nominating another parent/carer, please ensure you have their permission to do so.

Schools need governing boards that have a balance and diversity of knowledge, skills and experience. Anyone aged 18 or over can be a governor (following a successful enhanced DBS check and subject to some statutory criteria). There is no requirement for you to have an understanding of the education system, just the necessary skills, character, time to contribute, and a willingness to learn. The school benefits from a range of professional knowledge on the governing body to enable it to be effective, and for those involved it is a great way to use and develop skills in a board-level environment. Training is provided at no cost to the governor.

Governors are responsible for three core functions:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.
- Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school.
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school.

The responsibilities of the Parent Local Governor are to bring a **parental perspective** to the issues discussed – but they are not there to speak “on behalf” of the parent body.

For parents or carers of children at Exeter Road please return a completed copy of the attached application **by 12 Noon on Monday 25 April 2022** to Mr Paul Cornish, Executive Headteacher and Returning Officer, either via the main school reception, or email at paul.cornish@teignmouthschool.co.uk

Executive Headteacher: Mr Paul Cornish
Exeter Road, Teignmouth, Devon, TQ14 9HZ
Tel: 01626 774091 **Visit:** www.teignmouthsecondary.co.uk



If we receive more applications than vacancies for parent governors we will conduct a secret ballot of parents, but we will inform you closer to the time if this is required.

For a general outline of what being a governor involves there is a useful article by the national governance association here:

<https://www.nga.org.uk/Governance-Recruitment/Be-a-school-governor-or-trustee.aspx>

If you would like to speak to one of us informally to find out more what the role entails please email clerk@teignmouthschool.co.uk

Many thanks

Mark McCarthy
Chair of Governors