

17<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **Invitation to stand for election as a Parent Governor**

I am writing to invite you to stand for election as a Parent Governor. We currently have a vacancy for one Parent Governor and the successful candidate will serve a term of four years.

The Governing Body plays a key role in the school's governance and is responsible for, or involved in, many significant decisions concerning the school. The Governing Body has 3 core functions. They:

1. Ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction of our school;
2. Hold the executive leaders to account for the educational performance of our school and its pupils, and the effective and efficient performance management of staff; and
3. Oversee the financial performance of our school and make sure its money is well spent.

Parent governors bring their unique parental perspective to the Governing Body. Apart from that, their role is no different from the other governors. The role of parent governors is not to represent parents, but to operate as part of the governing body to fulfil its core functions.

No special qualifications are needed to be a governor and training will be provided for those elected. Much more important is having a keen interest in the school and being prepared to play an active part in the Governing Body's work to help improve outcomes for pupils. **We encourage nominations from all members of society, regardless of background, gender, ethnicity, disability, or age (as long as you're over 18).**

#### About the CFBS Governing Body and Expectations as a Governor

It is a very exciting time in the life of the school and being a school governor is a great way to get involved and to contribute to the success of the school. As well as being members of the Governing Body itself, members are expected to participate in one additional sub-committee: Teaching & Learning; Pay & Personnel; Finance; or Pastoral, Premises, Health & Safety. Members are also expected to act as a "link governor" for one faculty. Link governors act as liaison between the governing body and a particular faculty, including meeting with relevant teachers and visiting the department from time to time.

The next governing body meeting following the parent governor election is due to take place on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 5pm.

As a governor, you would be expected to attend approximately 4 meetings per term. Meetings usually take place on a Thursday (late afternoon/early evening), and you would also need to allow time for reading papers. Volunteers usually spend between 5 and 8 hours per month during term time on governing duties – this is a mix of meetings, school visits, and reading documents. The link governor role will involve spending one morning or afternoon in school during the year meeting with the faculty lead and visiting classrooms.

**HEADTEACHER: JAMIE BROWNHILL**

CENTRAL FOUNDATION BOYS' SCHOOL, COWPER STREET, LONDON, EC2A 4SH

**T:** 020 7253 3741 | **F:** 020 7336 7295 | **E:** [info@cfbs.islington.sch.uk](mailto:info@cfbs.islington.sch.uk) | **W:** [www.centralfoundationboys.co.uk](http://www.centralfoundationboys.co.uk)

### Information Sessions with Governors

If you have any questions about the role, please join us at one of the following sessions with a current governor:

- **In-Person at the School:** Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January - 5.30pm – 6.30pm
- **Online via Zoom:** Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February - 5.30pm – 6.30pm

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87431624770?pwd=dXNXdzBkbXJhdnIraWFvMWpEb3FyQT09>

Meeting ID: 874 3162 4770

Passcode: 5lyKE9

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One tap mobile

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### The Nomination Process

If you are interested in serving on the Governing Body or wish to nominate another person, please complete the attached nomination form and declaration of eligibility and return it to:

Clerk to the Governing Body, Central Foundation Boys' School, Cowper Street, London EC2A 4SH

OR by email to: [unj@cfbs.islington.sch.uk](mailto:unj@cfbs.islington.sch.uk)

by 5pm on **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024**.

If you are nominating another person, please ask them to sign the form to confirm that they have agreed to stand.

If more than one candidate is nominated, the election will be held by secret ballot. If that is necessary, voting papers will be sent to all parents together with details of the ballot procedure.

If you have any questions and would like to know more, please don't hesitate to reach out to either the Chair of the Governing Body, Simon Dodds at [doddss@cfbs.islington.sch.uk](mailto:doddss@cfbs.islington.sch.uk) or me at [unj@cfbs.islington.sch.uk](mailto:unj@cfbs.islington.sch.uk)

Yours faithfully,

*Joel Un*

**Clerk to the Governing Body**

Central Foundation is a thriving, dynamic school filled with energetic, creative students supported by extraordinarily dedicated teaching and non-teaching staff, especially our headteacher, as well as we parents. The role of a governor (including a parent governor) is to be a critical friend of the school. Governors work mainly with staff but also students to review, support and constructively challenge how the school achieves its academic and broader educational goals in a financially sound way.

Being a governor involves attending meetings, reviewing staff's written reports, and engaging with their presentations to explore what directions the school is taking and why, what goals are being achieved, and how governors can best support staff. We also meet with students to learn about their experience of school, and we attend the school's celebrations.

If you would like to serve as a governor, your energy, lived experience and thoughtful commitment to the school's aims will be very welcomed - this is more important than a formal work history. You will be well supported by your fellow governors and our Chair, as well as the Clerk to the Governing Body (staff member), as you find your feet.

I look forward to working with you either as a fellow parent governor, or in another voluntary role.

*Julie Hamwood*

Parent Governor (Jan 2022 - Current)

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When my eldest son joined Central Foundation, I was eager to support the school by standing for election to the governing body. This is a decision I have never regretted. I have found the opportunity of being a parent governor, to be a valuable and rewarding experience.

In the role, you will deepen your understanding of the management and leadership of the school, the exciting and ambitious curriculum development that takes place and all the work that goes into the excellent outcomes of our students. You will attend both full governing body meetings and the meetings of the committees you are assigned to. These events provide opportunities to ask questions and act as a 'critical friend' to school leaders.

My two sons have now grown and moved on to new and exciting opportunities, thanks to the foundations they experienced at Central Foundation. I am thrilled to have the opportunity to continue on the governing body in my new role as a Foundation Governor and I very much hope that you will feel inspired to nominate yourself for the role of parent governor.

*Jo Plesniak*

Parent Governor (Feb 2015 – Oct 2022), Foundation Governor (Oct 2022 - Current)



Jo's and Julie's accounts of their experiences as parent governors eloquently describes the role they have played, its importance, and the way in which it has enhanced their personal development. As Chair of the Governing Body, I'd like to add my own perspective and to encourage interested parents to consider standing for election as a parent governor.

The Governing Body has a central role within the school. Required by law to provide strategic leadership, hold executives to account and oversee the financial performance of the school. In fulfilling its role, the governing body depends on the commitment of its members. We are fortunate to benefit from the different knowledge and experiences of a varied group of people. In this regard, parent governors play a critical role. Their insights of the school, as the parents of students, provides an invaluable perspective for the Governing Body as it carries out its work.

I would encourage any parent interested in the school to consider standing for election. No special skills are required. We seek a governing body with a wide range of skills, experiences and insights. Any parent who cares about the school and its students, and is eager to contribute to the operation and development of the school, should consider applying.

Central Foundation is a wonderful school with a storied history. As the building development has been completed, this is an exciting time to be involved with the school. We have many challenges both now and as we look to the future and we have great ambitions for the school. The Governing Body is engaged in meeting these challenges and working with the headteacher and senior leaders to ensure our continued success. As members of the Governing Body, parent governors can, and are expected to, play an active and important part in guiding the school forward. I hope very much that you will consider standing for election.

*Simon Dodds*

Chair of CFBS Governing Body

HEADTEACHER: JAMIE BROWNHILL

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**I wish to stand for election as a parent governor of Central Foundation Boys' School**

Title: Mr, Mrs, Ms, Dr etc ..... Surname .....

First Names .....

Date of Birth .....

Home Address and postcode

Telephone No. home .....

work .....

mobile .....

E mail .....

If you are nominating another parent please sign here and ensure that the nominee signs the declaration on the reverse.

Signature .....

Name ..... Date .....

**In the event of an election details supporting candidature are invited. Please complete the personal statement below in support of your nomination – no more than 200 words please.**

This nomination paper can either be returned by email to [unj@cfbs.islington.sch.uk](mailto:unj@cfbs.islington.sch.uk) OR delivered to:  
Clerk to the Governing Body, Central Foundation Boys' School, Cowper Street, London EC2A 4SH  
by 5pm on **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024.**

## **Declaration of Eligibility**

I declare that I am not disqualified from serving as a school governor and that:

- **I am** aged 18 or over at the date of this election or appointment;
- **I do not** already hold a governorship of the same school;
- **I am not** a person who is detained under the Mental Health Act 1983;
- **I am not** the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order or an interim order;
- **I have not** had my estate sequestrated and the sequestration has not been discharged, annulled or reduced.
- **I have not** been removed from the office of a charity trustee or trustee for a charity by an order made by the Charity Commissioners or the High Court on the grounds of any misconduct or mismanagement or, under section 7 of the Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Scotland) Act 1990, from being concerned in the management or control of any body;
- **I am not** included in the list (List 99) of teachers and workers with children or young persons whose employment is prohibited or restricted;
- **I am not** disqualified from working with children;
- **I have not**, in the five years prior to becoming a governor, received a sentence of imprisonment, suspended or otherwise, for a period of not less than three months without the option of a fine;
- **I have not**, in the twenty years prior to becoming a governor, been convicted as aforesaid of any offence and had passed on me a sentence of imprisonment for a period of not less than two and a half years;
- **I have not**, at any time, had passed on me a sentence of imprisonment for a period of not less than five years;
- **I have not** been fined, in the five years prior to becoming a governor, for causing a nuisance or disturbance on education premises;
- **I am not** subject to a disqualification order under the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000.

I am willing to serve as a parent governor should I be elected. I am not disqualified from serving as a school governor and agree that the information I give on this form can be recorded. I give permission for an application to be made to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) (formerly known as the Criminal Records Bureau – CRB) for a criminal records certificate should that become necessary. If I become disqualified, I will notify the Clerk to the Governing Body.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_