

12th November 2025

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. A vacancy for one Parent Governor will open on 31st January 2026 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 5th February 2026 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 | **W:** www.centralfoundationboys.co.uk

Information Sessions with Governors

If you have any questions about the role, please join us at the following online session with a current governor:

- **Online via Zoom:** Monday 24th November 2025- 5.00pm – 5.30pm

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89997208682?pwd=NGPI1HUW7CSJXwvvpSsxXMYaaMJe5Y.1>

Meeting ID: 899 9720 8682

Passcode: 0L7HqS

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

by 5pm on **Monday 15th December 2025**.

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 or me at unj@cfbs.islington.sch.uk

Yours faithfully,

Joel Un

Clerk to the Governing Body



Reflecting on when I volunteered as a Parent Governor, I realise I had little understanding of the role. I simply wanted to contribute to the school, support its community—students, families, and staff—and learn how such a complex educational institution operates. Three years into my tenure, I can say the experience has far exceeded my expectations.

Governors gain valuable insight into the school's leadership, the challenges it faces, and its ambitions. The role allows you to shape and steer the direction the school is taking in several ways - by participating in governing body meetings, joining specific committees such as finance or pastoral, and engaging with staff, students, and families at parents' evenings or by taking on Link Governor responsibilities for a specific academic subject.

Central Foundation is a unique school with an inspiring vision for its students. Governors are exceptionally well supported by the Chair, fellow governors, and the Clerk. While the role requires commitment, it has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life and a privilege to contribute to the school's success.

A strong partnership between Governors and the school is essential for student success. Every Parent Governor brings unique skills and perspectives, and these contributions are invaluable regardless of background. I would encourage everyone who is curious about being a Parent Governor to put themselves forward for this important role. I look forward to working with the successful candidate!

Paula Chin

Parent Governor (Dec 2022 - Current)

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)

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Jo's and Paula'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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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 _____