

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

24<sup>th</sup> May 2023

I am writing to inform you of vacancies for the role of two parent Local Governors (LG) on our Local Governing Board (LGB).

All parents or carers of registered pupils at the academy at the time of a parent LG election are eligible to become parent LGs.

### **The role of the Local Governing Board (LGB)**

The role of the LGB is to focus on ensuring that the academy is aligned with the needs of the local community it serves.

### **The role of a parent Local Governor**

As a parent Local Governor, you will also play a vital role in bringing a parental perspective to the issues discussed or the strategic decisions the LGB make, but you are not there to speak 'on behalf' of the parent body. Your role is to support the academy, rather than act as parent representative.

More information can be found in the attached document 'Local Governor role explained'.

The LGB is keen for candidates to have skills in the following:

We need parent Local Governors with skills in SEND as well as those who understand and are supportive of the distinctive Christian character of the academy.

In addition, we require the parent Local Governors to be:

#### **Committed**

Devoting the required time and energy to the role and ambitious to achieve best possible outcomes for young people. Prepared to give time, skills and knowledge to developing themselves and others in order to create highly effective governance.

#### **Confident**

Of an independent mind, able to lead and contribute to courageous conversations, to express their opinion and to play an active role on the board.

#### **Curious**

Possessing an enquiring mind and an analytical approach and understanding the value of meaningful questioning.

#### **Challenging**

Providing appropriate challenge to the status quo, not taking information or data at face value and always driving for improvement.

### **Collaborative**

Prepared to listen to and work in partnership with others and understanding the importance of building strong working relationships within the board and with executive leaders, staff, parents and carers, pupils/students, the local community and employers.

### **Critical**

Understanding the value of critical friendship which enables both challenge and support, and self-reflective, pursuing learning and development opportunities to improve their own and whole board effectiveness.

### **Creative**

Able to challenge conventional wisdom and be open-minded about new approaches to problem-solving; recognising the value of innovation and creative thinking to organisational development and success.

### **How to apply**

If you are interested in applying for the role, please complete the candidate form attached to this letter and return to Ebi Ajuka, [Eajuka@stmarks.anthemtrust.uk](mailto:Eajuka@stmarks.anthemtrust.uk) or the main school office by **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023**. If we receive more applications than there are vacancies, a secret ballot will be carried out. We will inform you closer to the time if we have to do this.

If you have any queries about this process or would like to find out more about the role, please contact Ebi Ajuka

Yours faithfully,



**Principal**



**Chair of Local Governors**

# Local Governor role explained

## Anthem

The school you wish to work with is part of Anthem Schools Trust, which is an education charity that runs 16 state-funded schools - 11 primary and five secondary schools.

Our vision is that by working together, we will create ambitious and successful schools in which every child thrives.

Anthem schools are diverse and serve many different communities. They are all united by a shared ambition for children and young people, which is underpinned by a commitment to integrity, collaboration and excellence. These values are brought to life through our schools' own identities and approaches, creating thriving local schools that meet their communities' needs.

We believe in the benefits of working with others. We actively encourage our schools to collaborate across the Trust and beyond, so that we all continually learn and improve.

You can find out more about Anthem at [www.anthemtrust.uk](http://www.anthemtrust.uk)

## Responsibilities of a Local Governor

You may already have some perceptions about the role of a school governor based on the traditional model that still tends to exist in local authority-maintained schools. However, the role of a Local Governor within academies and free schools that are part of a Trust is quite different.

Collectively, our schools form a single legal entity – Anthem Schools Trust. The Anthem Board of Trustees is accountable to the government for the performance of the whole Trust and so, in effect, the Trustees are the schools' Governors.

This distinction is something you will need to be aware of in your role as a Local Governor, particularly in relation to things such as Ofsted inspections. The DfE and Ofsted will often refer to the school's 'Governors' in reports and so on – for schools in a Trust, this means the Trustees, not members of the Local Governing Body.

Local Governing Bodies (LGBs) are sub-committees of the Board of Trustees, and the precise nature of their remit is set out in a Scheme of Delegation, available through our website: [www.anthemtrust.uk](http://www.anthemtrust.uk). Predominantly, the role of Local Governors is to focus on ensuring that their school is aligned with the needs of the local community it serves. As an Anthem Local Governor, you will support and challenge school leaders to deliver the best possible education for local families and act as a champion for the school to secure or maintain its place at the heart of its community.

## Practical expectations

The LGB will meet between three and six times an academic year. These meetings will be in the school and at a time convenient to the Local Governors and school leadership, although most meet early evening. All meeting papers and other documents are shared via a web portal called GovernorHub.

This can be accessed using Apple or Microsoft technology and is also used as a means of communication by Anthem to individual Local Governors. We encourage paperless meetings as much as possible to save costs and protect the environment.

We expect Local Governors to visit the school during the school day at least once or twice during the year. These visits will include interacting with the children and young people as well as staff. It is important that Local Governors are visible to the school and that you get a direct understanding of how the school is run. All visits would be planned with the Headteacher to ensure they do not disrupt the school day.

Training in the areas relevant to your role will be offered by the school and Trust. There is also free training available from local authorities and other providers, but you would need to take care that it is appropriate to you as an Anthem Local Governor. If you feel you have training needs that are not covered then please discuss this with your Chair or Clerk in the first instance.

At times, the school will ask for volunteers from the LGB to sit on panels to consider exclusions, complaints, or staff disciplinaries. These panels would include others with experience and ordinarily a representative from Anthem. You would never be expected to sit on such panels without the right support.

There is a limited term of office for all Local Governors of four years although, if you wish, you can apply to stay for a second term of four years. However, only in exceptional circumstances will you remain on the LGB for more than eight years.

## Candidate form

<b>Candidate Name:</b>	
<b>Candidate Contact details:</b>	
<b>Name of the pupil(s) and Year Group (s):</b>	
<b>Candidate Statement:</b>	

I confirm that I am a parent/carer of the above registered pupil(s) at the school.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_