Independent School Governor

We are **Light Years School**. A brand-new special school located in Fareham, Hampshire providing education for primary aged children with a range of special educational needs. Our school motto; ‘start small, grow tall’ symbolises a child’s growth and development through their individual learning journey at Light Years School.  We believe passionately that with the right support at the right time, pupils will thrive in school and be ready for the next stage of their education.

We are recruiting for parent, community and co-opted governors to join our newly formed Governing Body from January 2024.

The core functions of our school governing body are to:

* **Ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction**
  + The Governing Body (GB) ensure the school has a clear idea of what it wants to achieve, and a measurable plan for how to achieve it
  + Your role is to help set and embed our school’s vision, ethos and strategy, and use these to monitor how the school is performing
* **Hold executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the effective and efficient performance management of staff**
  + The GB will provide support, advice and appropriate challenge to staff and leaders ensuring that the school is operating safely, legally, inline with statutory guidance and the expectations of our regulatory partners (Ofsted etc.)
* **Support leaders, staff and the wider community in creating a successful environment for the children of our school to be able to thrive in**
  + The GB will ensure that school leaders are using their professional judgement properly and managing the performance of staff and pupils effectively
  + The GB will embrace your skillset to bring expertise to the governing body, working to develop opportunities, further the success of the provision and ensure the school operates in the best interests of the children it serves

Responsibilities

* Understand the purpose and core values of our school and the vital work it does to offer children with additional needs a successful experience of bespoke education and development
* Support developing the school’s vision, strategic aims and objectives
* Set a culture of high educational and personal development standards, which promotes staff and pupil wellbeing and individual success
* Ensure the school follows the National Curriculum, and that all pupils, including those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), can access the curriculum
* Monitor provision for pupils with SEND
* Monitor the school’s educational performance, using a range of data sources
* Approve and review school policies, and hold staff to account for their implementation
* Make sure the school is compliant with legal requirements, including that all statutory policies and documents are in place
* Carry out the performance management of the headteacher
* Be a source of challenge and support to the headteacher
* Monitor and evaluate the school’s staffing structure
* Monitor health and safety in the school
* Work in co-operation with the local authority, having regard to any guidance it issues

Skills and experience

| **Essential Skills:** | **Desirable Skills:** |
| --- | --- |
| Passion for first-rate, inclusive education | Understanding of data |
| Critical listening and ability to ask effective  questions | Finance and/or accounting knowledge |
| Strategic thinking | HR experience |
| Excellent communication | Knowledge of education |
| Problem-solving and analysis | Leadership and management skills |
|  | Risk management skills |
|  | Legal expertise |
|  | Marketing and communications skills |

Benefits to you

New skills you’ll gain:

* Strategic planning
* Experience on a board
* Holding senior leaders to account and ability to provide challenge
* Analysing data
* Human resources and performance management
* Project management
* Marketing
* Communication and teamwork
* Decision making
* Problem solving

Time commitment

The time commitment for school governors will vary. However, all governors must attend at least 4 out of 6 meetings of the full board per year. The standard term of office is 4 years.

Preparation for meetings includes reading papers/policies and preparing questions for senior leaders and staff. You will also be expected to undertake any training required to enable you to discharge your role effectively. Governors are also expected to visit the school while it is open to pupils at least 4 times per year to complete structured visits and learning walks.

If you would like to know more about becoming a school governor, please get in touch with the chair of governors:

**Chair of Governors:**  Jack Pattinson

**Email:**  jack.pattinson@lightyearseducation.co.uk