



7th October 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Can you help shape the future of our school?

The school currently has two vacancies for parents/carers to join our Local Governing Committee (LGC), and we are looking for volunteers to fill this role. We are looking for people who care about Brittons and want to be a part of our journey of rapid improvement.

Information about the role

Once elected or appointed for a normal term of four years (subject to an annual review), the individual joins the LGC as an equal with all other members of the LGC, and is not a Parent/Carer representative, but without doubt brings that perspective to the Committee alongside their other knowledge and expertise.

This role is important to our school community and to the LGC because the holder is able to bring direct knowledge of concerns and issues that pupils and parents may have to the discussions and decisions made by the LGC. The role of the LGC is to bring leadership, challenge and support to the school to ensure the strategy of the school is fit for purpose and to monitor its delivery. The role is not about individual pupils (especially one's own), but of course one's own experiences and interactions with the school are important inputs into the decisions the LGC will make.

The LGC is made up of 8 members who wish to make a positive contribution to the school, working in partnership with the Principal to promote continuous improvement in the school's performance. Responsibilities include preparing for and attending at least two LGC meetings per term, to on occasion attending the school to gather first-hand information about activities and improvements, advocating the school within the community, attending the Empower Learning Academy Trust (ELAT) Annual Governance Conference and working between meetings to progress any matters delegated from the LGC meetings. LGC members are also required to undertake 8 hours of training per annum and to support this, the Local Authority offers a high-quality training service for LGC members, which includes face-to-face training courses, e-learning and a helpline.

What are we looking for from a member of the LGC?

- Shared values with those of the school and ELAT.
- Enthusiasm and commitment.
- An ability to ask questions and a tenacity in seeking answers.
- Local knowledge: you will bring a feel of what is important to the school community and its locality.



- Skills, knowledge and insights from other areas of life.
- An appetite for learning for oneself.
- A desire to make a positive difference.
- Objectivity in debate and decision-making.
- Time to fulfil the role fully.

What are the benefits?

- Being a member of an LGC is often seen as a privilege – it is a small but very important part in an educational system with a very long history.
- The knowledge that you have played a part in improving local children’s education.
- A chance to develop new skills, to practice and strengthen existing ones, such as chairing, researching or leading on a key school issue.
- The opportunity to work as part of a team to make a real difference to our community.
- The opportunity to meet new people from different walks of life who you probably would not have otherwise encountered.
- Knowing that the decisions you contribute to will have a significant impact on children’s lives.
- You will develop as a person and may even find that your experiences influence your future career and life choices.

At this stage, nominations are requested for parents/carers wishing to stand for election. You may nominate yourself or your partner, provided that two other parents/carers sign the nomination, or you may nominate another parent/carer of a child at the school, provided that two other parents/carers sign the nomination.

An election will be held across the parent/carer base of the school by secret ballot in November 2021.

Any parent or person having parental responsibility for a child at the school is eligible to make a nomination and to vote. The term of office will usually be four years and the successful candidate does not necessarily have to resign if their child leaves the school. However, each year the membership of the LGC is reviewed by the ELAT Trust Board to determine the effectiveness of the body and its continuing membership.

We strongly believe that parents/carers, as the primary educators of their children, should be involved in their child’s education in schools, and I would encourage all parents/carers to consider applying for this role.

Before submitting your nomination, I would welcome the opportunity to have a discussion with you, along with either the LGC Chair, Liz Dixon, or the LGC Vice Chair, Dave Harries. Please do feel free to contact my PA, Angela Farmer, who will set up a time for us to have a conversation and for you to ask any questions that you may have.

Given the process will be by election and there will hopefully be multiple candidates, nominees must submit a brief written statement about themselves for circulation to the parent/carer body so that the electorate can make a more informed decision alongside an attributes questionnaire. Once your nomination has been submitted and reviewed, all candidates will be invited to have a meeting with myself and the LGC Chair to ascertain that candidates have the desired skills, knowledge and approach that we are looking for at this time. The LGC is obviously made up of a group of individuals and our objective is to create a blend of diverse skills and knowledge that we feel will make the whole better than the individual parts. To that end, where a candidate has particular skills/experience/approach suited to our needs at this time, the LGC Chair will endorse/recommend that candidate when election material is distributed.

If you wish to know more about school governance in general, there are some good resources that can be found here:

<https://www.inspiringgovernance.org/volunteers/about-the-role/>

<https://www.nga.org.uk/getmedia/e1d09ad8-281b-40f9-bbb4-576ea4aa475a/Governor-RD.pdf>

Information about the Empower Learning Academy Trust can be found here:

<https://www.elatschools.co.uk/#info>

We are really keen to hear from any of you about this opportunity and look forward to engaging with you about the next steps.

If you wish to submit a nomination, please complete and return the enclosed information form to the school office by 12 noon on Thursday 21st October 2021, or by e-mail to afarmer@elatschools.co.uk

Yours sincerely,

W Thompson

MR. W. THOMPSON
Principal

THE BRITTONS ACADEMY

Parent/Carer LGC Member Nomination Form

I wish to nominate _____ to stand for election as a member of the Local Governing Committee for Brittons.

They are a *parent/carers (other please specify) _____

of _____ (name of child at the school).

The above person is *myself/my partner/another parent.

The following 2 people support this nomination (2 nominees of parents/carers of other students).

1. Name _____ Signature _____

Name of child at the school _____

2. Name _____ Signature _____

Name of child at the school _____

The nominee has agreed to the above nomination and has submitted a brief personal statement which is attached (please tick)

Signed _____ Date _____

Please note: No one may become an LGC member who is:

- a) Under 18 years old.
- b) Already is a governor/trustee/member of a local governance committee of 4 other schools.
- c) Declared bankrupt or has been officially in debt within the last 5 years to the extent that a legal arrangement has been made with creditors.
- d) Convicted for a crime and sentenced to 3 months or more imprisonment (whether suspended or not) without the option of a fine, or has been so within the last 5 years.