

KENSINGTON ALDRIDGE ACADEMY PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTION GUIDELINES

Become a Parent Governor at Kensington Aldridge Academy

There are two vacancies for a parent governor on the governing body at Kensington Aldridge Academy and we would like you to think about applying to become a parent governor. Academy governors are people who want to make a positive contribution to children's education and their life chances.

This letter gives some background to the role and answers some of the questions you may have, but if you are interested and would like to ask more questions or talk to another governor about what being a governor entails please email the Clerk to the Board Anna Machin (a.machin@kaa.org.uk). You can find out more information about the academy at Kensington Aldridge Academy and the Aldridge Foundation at www.aldridgefoundation.com.

Who else is on the governing body?

There are Sponsor Governors appointed by the Aldridge Foundation, local authority representatives and people who have strong experience in the field of education and other relevant sectors. The Principal is also a governor.

What does a governor do?

A governor works as part of a team to give strategic support and challenge to the academy and hold the academy and the governors accountable for their responsibilities. The governing body does not get involved in the day to day running of the academy - that is the Principal and leadership team's responsibility.

Do I have any legal responsibilities?

The Board of Governors have responsibility for ensuring that the academy meets all its statutory requirements in matters such as safeguarding, health and safety and financial regulations. Kensington Aldridge Academy is also a registered as a company which means that all governors are company directors. Governors receive professional advice on all the relevant areas so they can be sure they are fulfilling their duties.

How much time does it take?

There are a minimum of four full governor meetings a year to attend plus you will need time beforehand to read the papers. Ideally you would be on one of the committees which also meet three to four times a year, again with papers. You might also be asked to help interview for a senior teacher role, or attend a meeting to review student discipline, for example. You will be invited to academy events. You should probably allow about 1 day a month on average.

Can you work full-time and be a governor?

Yes you can. Most of our current governors work full time. Some meetings are held outside work hours and you are entitled to some time off work to be a governor and attend meetings.

Why do you want parents to be governors?

Parents can represent the views of other parents, often understand a school in a different way from other governors and play a vital role in helping the school meet the needs of the communities it serves.

How is an academy governor different from that of a local authority school?

The role is similar, both provide strategic support to the Principal and their staff but although there are local authority representatives on the Kensington Aldridge Academy Board, an academy does not report to the local authority. The academy receives funding from the Department for Education and reports directly to it. An academy has more freedom than a local authority school to manage its affairs – this includes the budget, curriculum and staffing.

I am interested but don't have any experience. Do you train people to be governors?

Yes, all new governors are offered training on the role of being a governor. There are also other optional training sessions for governors covering various aspects of being an academy governor plus some training for the whole governing body each year which you would be expected to attend.

Who can stand as a parent governor?

Anyone with parental responsibility for a student currently attending Kensington Aldridge Academy can stand. The student can be in any year group, including sixth form.

If I want to be considered for parent governor what happens next?

If you have any questions or would like to meet up with a governor or the Principal to find out more about the role before applying, please email Clerk to the Board Anna Machin (a.machin@kaa.org.uk), who can set this up. Otherwise please fill in the application form and ask another parent to nominate you. Full details of the election process are enclosed.

I don't often come into school and see other parents, so I'm not sure who I could ask to nominate me.

Email Vashti Turner (v.turner@kaa.org.uk) and she can arrange for you to meet with a parent from Kensington Aldridge Academy who can nominate you.

Is anyone prevented from applying to be a parent governor?

Yes - if you work at Kensington Aldridge Academy for more than 500 hours a year or are an elected member of the Local Authority you aren't allowed to stand. Also if you are bankrupt, have been disqualified as a trustee or have been to prison for more than 3 months you aren't eligible to stand, though you can still nominate someone else.

I don't know what kind of information to put in my supporting statement

This is just to tell other parents about you to help them choose who to vote for. You could tell them that you are a parent with children in a particular year, why you are interested in being a governor, plus any relevant experience or interests you have. You may also have community links, experience of the outside world and an independent view. If you would like some help with putting your statement together, please email Vashti

Turner (v.turner@kaa.org.uk).

What else would you expect me to do?

- actively support the ethos and values of the school
- work as a member of the governing body (not as an individual) in the best interests of the academy setting aside any personal interests you may have
- show an interest in academy activities
- become well-informed about education in general and about our academy in particular
- become familiar with the rules of academy governance
- keep up to date with changes in education legislation
- maintain confidentiality at all times

What will I get out of being a governor?

You will have the knowledge that you are helping our students and the satisfaction of giving something back to the community. We want it to give you a sense of purpose and achievement and some new skills which may be useful elsewhere.

What else would you like me to offer apart from my time?

We would like you to bring a willingness to learn, a listening ear and enquiring mind, plus the ability to assimilate information, make judgements, take decisions and be part of a team.