

Code of Practice for Appointment of Authority Governors in Southampton

Authority governor appointments in Southampton are made on a non-political basis and with the interests of the school being the key factor.

- ❖ Authority governors are not delegates of the Local Authority (LA). This means that they cannot be directed by the LA to act in a certain way but should be aware of and represent the views of the LA.
- ❖ Authority governors are expected to help the school improve and support the school's ethos and mission. Authority governors are expected to provide a school with the skills and experience that it needs.
- ❖ The LA recognises that individual governors are bound by the corporate responsibilities of the governing body.
- ❖ The LA will take a proactive role in identifying existing and potential Authority governors' vacancies prior to the end of their term of office and will endeavour to make appointments as soon as possible. LA governors approaching the end of their term of office will be informed of this and invited to express a willingness to be considered for re-appointment. Re-appointment is not an automatic process.
- ❖ Applications will be considered by the LA Governors' Appointment Panel.
 - The panel comprises five persons, one Member to be nominated by each of the three lead political parties, plus one headteacher and one governor representative.
 - The Panel will make recommendations for appointment to the Executive Director for Children's Services or his representative.
 - The Panel is convened by the Governance and Leadership Adviser.
 - The Panel meets approximately once per term or more if required.

Those applying for nominations as LA governors will be required to take part in a staged process leading to applications being taken to Panel.

Stage 1 Informal conversation with Governance and Leadership Adviser (GLA) informing applicant of the role. In some situations this conversation may be held directly with the school, (such as an existing parent governor wishing to transfer to Authority category of governor).

Stage 2 Application form completed and returned to LA.

Stage 3 A school with Authority vacancies is identified by the LA and a visit arranged for prospective governor – preferably to meet Headteacher and Chair of Governors or alternative governor.

Stage 4 Following the school visit the LA (**GLA**) discusses with all parties the suitability or otherwise of the applicant for nomination to that particular school. If the applicant confirms that he/she is still willing to be appointed then the nomination is taken to the LA Governors' Appointment Panel.

Stage 5 The nomination is considered by the Panel for recommendation or otherwise to the Executive Director.

Stage 6 Appointment confirmed.

Authority Governor Appointments in Academies

Southampton City Council / LA is keen to support the inclusion of Authority Governors within Governing Bodies of Academies. If an Academy chooses to include an Authority Governor within its constitution and as recorded in the Articles of Association, the LA will appoint nominees in the same way as for maintained schools.

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