



Job Description: Clerk to the Governors

Job Purpose:

The Clerk to the Governors will provide advice to the governing body about governance, constitutional and procedural matters by:

- Providing effective administrative support to the governing body and its committees and working parties;
- Ensuring the governing body is properly constituted;
- Managing information effectively in accordance with legal requirements;

Duties:

Providing advice to the governing body, its committees and working parties

- Advise the governing body about governance legislation and procedural matters where necessary before, during and after meetings;
- Act as the first point of contact for governors with queries about procedural matters;
- Seek legal advice, support and guidance (and where necessary from third parties) on behalf of the governing body;
- Inform the governing body of any changes to its responsibilities as a result of a change in school status or changes in the relevant legislation;
- Offer advice on best practice in governance, including on committee structures and self-evaluation;
- Ensure that statutory policies are in place, and are revised when necessary, with the assistance of staff;
- Organise the annual calendar of governing body meetings and tasks;
- Send new governors induction materials and ensure they have access to appropriate documents, including any agreed Code of Practice;
- Contribute to the induction of governors taking on new roles, in particular chair or chair of a committee;

Effective administration of meetings

- With the chair and Headteacher, prepare a focused agenda for the governing body and committee meetings;
- Liaise with those preparing papers to make sure they are available on time, and distribute the agenda and papers as required by legislation or other regulations;
- Ensure meetings are quorate;
- Record the attendance of governors at meetings (and any apologies – whether they have been accepted or not), and take appropriate action in relation to absences, including advising absent governors of the date of the next meeting;
- Draft minutes of governing body meetings, indicating who is responsible for any agreed action with timescales, and send drafts to the chair and the Headteacher;
- Circulate the reviewed draft to all governors (members of the committee) and the headteacher within the timescale agreed;
- Follow-up any agreed action points with those responsible and inform the chair of progress;



Membership

- Advise governors and appointing bodies in advance of the expiry of a governor's term of office, elections or appointments can be organised in a timely manner;
- Chair that part of the meeting at which the chair is elected, giving procedural advice concerning conduct of this and other elections;
- Ensure the record of governors' business interests is reviewed regularly and lodged within the school;
- Arrange for a Disclosure and Barring (DBS) to be carried out on any new governor and when it is appropriate to do so;
- Maintain a record of training undertaken by members of the governing body;
- Maintain governor meeting attendance records and advise the chair of potential disqualification through lack of attendance;
- Advise the governing body on succession planning (of all roles, not just the chair);

Manage Information

- Maintain up to date records of the names, addresses and category of governing body members and their term of office, and inform the governing body and any relevant authorities of any changes to its membership;
- Maintain copies of current terms of reference and membership of any committees and working parties and any 'link' governors e.g. Child-protection, SEND, health and safety;
- Maintain a record of signed minutes of meetings in school, and ensure copies are sent to relevant bodies on request and are published as agreed at meetings;
- Maintain records of governing body correspondence;
- Ensure copies of statutory policies and other school documents approved by the governing body are kept in the school and published as agreed;

Personal Development

- Undertake appropriate and regular training and development to maintain his/her knowledge and improve practice;
- Keep up-to-date with current educational developments and legislation affecting school governance;
- Participate in regular performance management;

Additional Services

The clerk may be asked to undertake the following additional duties:

- Clerk any statutory appeal committees/panels the governing body is required to convene;
- Assist with the elections of parent and staff governors;
- Participate in, and contribute to the training of governors in areas appropriate to the clerking role;
- Maintain a file of relevant Department for Education (DfE) and local authority guidance documents;
- Maintain archive materials;
- Prepare briefing papers for the governing body, as necessary;
- Conduct skills audits and advise on training requirements and the criteria for appointing new governors relevant to vacancies;
- Perform such other tasks as may be determined by the governing body from time to time;

Other duties

- To understand and comply with policies and procedures relating of Staplehurst School.

Discussed and Agreed on _____ (Date)



Signed _____
Member of staff/Applicant

Print _____

Signed _____

Lucy Davenport, Headteacher