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Frequently Asked Questions: Parent and Community Advisory Forum

What are the benefits of being a member of the Parent and Community Advisory Forum?

- The knowledge that you have played a part in improving children's education
- The opportunity to contribute your knowledge and skills to a school
- The privilege of giving something back to society

Do I need qualifications to be a member of the Parent and Community Advisory Forum?

No. Schools need people with a variety of life experiences. The following are important:

- A commitment to attend meetings of the Parent and Community Advisory Forum
- A desire to raise the standards of education within the school
- A willingness to share skills and expertise within the context of the Parent and Community Advisory Forum
- Training will be given for those attending Panel meetings for the Trust (e.g. pupil discipline/complaints/staff absence)

I work full-time. Will I still have time to be a member of the Parent and Community Advisory Forum?

Parent and Community Advisory Forum meetings take place at a time to suit the majority of members and we may consider rotating timings to capture as many members as possible.

You may wish to speak to your employer to ask if they would be willing to give you time off to attend the Forum, as many employers are supportive of governance roles in this regard.

What makes a good member of the Parent and Community Advisory Forum?

- You want to make sure the school is an outstanding centre of education
- You care about improving children's education
- You have the confidence to speak up in meetings in a positive and constructive manner
- You are willing to listen to the views of others

What can I offer?

Enthusiasm and commitment. As a member of the school's community your local or specialist knowledge will be valuable – you will have a feel for what is important to people in the area (or on a given topic) and offer your opinion and/or expertise.

Parent and Community Advisory Forums:

- Increase parent and community engagement between the School and Directors
- Consider parent and community engagement within the school
- Report through the Headteacher to the Directors highlighting issues and successes with any recommendations
- Can represent the Directors on panels (e.g. pupil discipline/complaints/staff absence) subject to training
- Enables parents and community members to contribute to school improvement
- Provide advice to Directors
- Get to know the school
- Meet at least once a term

How much time does it take?

The amount of time that members of the Parent and Community Advisory Forum can give to the role will vary but if you are serious about helping the school then you do need to:

- Attend meetings
- Participate – You should find time to prepare for the meetings and contribute as much as you are able to offer.

How do I apply to be a member of the Parent and Community Advisory Forum?

The school will communicate to parents confirming this information e.g. through the school newsletter.