



St. Mary's Catholic Primary
School, Harrington

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Monday, January 19, 2026

Dear Parents/Carers.

Parent Governor Election – St Mary's Catholic Primary School

I am writing to inform you of a vacancy on the school Governing Body for a Parent Governor. Details of the process to fill the vacancy follow.

The Nomination of Parents as Candidates

Each parent* of a pupil attending the school is to be given the opportunity of putting their name forward with a view to becoming a parent governor. If you want to submit a nomination on your behalf you should do so, in writing, to the Clerk of the Governing Body. Letters of nomination must be countersigned by two sponsors, who must also be parents of children currently attending the school.

The closing date for the receipt of nominations by the school is **Thursday 22nd January 2026**

In the event of there being no more than one nomination, the person nominated will automatically become a Parent Governor.

The Election Procedure

If we receive more than one nomination then an election by secret ballot will be held to allow parents to decide who they would like to represent them. Should an election be necessary, it will be held as soon as possible. Each parent* of a child who at the time of the election is a pupil at the school will be entitled to vote.

Following an election, parents will be told the name of the successful candidate. In the event it is necessary to hold an election, the Clerk will issue all parents with further details concerning the way in which the ballot (which will be entirely secret and as fool-proof as possible) is to be organised and supply the official ballot papers.

Candidate's Contribution to the Election

Candidates will be given the opportunity to write a short statement, which will be circulated to all parents of the school. Should candidates wish to seek support in any other way, this will be entirely their own responsibility.

Term of Office for Parent Governors

An elected parent governor will hold office for a period of four years. They are expected to attend a maximum of 2 meetings per half term.



Parent's Participation

It is very important for the efficiency and effectiveness of schools that parents should be encouraged to have an active involvement in their children's education. Consequently, parents are encouraged to participate and take an interest in the election process whether as candidates or voters. In this way all parents can have an effective voice concerning the running of their children's school and have a proper vehicle for the expression of their views regarding school policies.

School Government in General

On appointment/election all governors receive induction and support to help them in their role as a school governor.

If you have any queries at this stage regarding the subject of Parent Governors please contact myself & I will endeavour to help you. Please note we are a Safeguarding school and any appointment would be subject to an enhanced DBS check.

Yours sincerely



Clerk to the Governing Body

Email: k.weston@stmarys-harrington.cumbria.sch.uk

*Definition Of "Parent"

4. Section 576 of the Education Act 1996 defines "parent" to include:

- all natural parents, whether they are married or not; and
- any person who, although not a natural parent, has *parental responsibility* for a child or young person; and
- any person who, although not a natural parent, *has care* of a child or young person

