



9th February 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

Somehow, we are already halfway through the school year! You'll no doubt have realised what an amazingly special place your child's nursery is and how much our staff care about their development, safety, and happiness. My role as Chair of Governors is to build a team of equally committed volunteers to govern both Little Hayes and Speedwell Nursery Schools, it's our job to give the schools a clear vision and ethos, strategic direction, hold leaders to account and make sure money is well spent.

We need a parents or carer to be part of the team – nominations from any Mums, Dads or Carers of children at either school are welcome. You can nominate yourself using the form below or nominate another parent/carers (although please ask them if they would be willing to serve first 😊). The role of a parent governor is the same as that of all our governors, you are an equal member of the team and while your experience as a parent/carers is invaluable to us, you will never be asked to act as a representative of other parents.

We are also looking for several co-opted governors. These are usually people from the wider community who have an interest or experience in early years education or skills in finance, human resources, premises management or inclusion and equalities and want to use that to support our brilliant schools. If you know of anybody who you think would be passionate about, knows our local communities or brings expertise that will make governance stronger at our schools please ask them to get in touch, or encourage them to read and complete our co-opted governors application pack which can be downloaded from the Governance page of the federation's website:

<https://littlehayesandspeedwellnurseryschools.co.uk/about/governors/>

Governors usually serve a term of office of 4 years, but we know that with small children life changes quickly and that parents/carers involved in governance may have to resign earlier than that. Parent/carers can also serve as co-opted governors so don't worry about competing with others, we have plenty of spaces on the governing body to fill at present and anticipate there will be room for everyone who wants to serve.

Governors meet a total of 10 times a year – once each term with all our governors, and four times a year as part of one of our two committees. Meetings are currently on a Monday evening between 4-6pm for the full governing body and from 4-5.30pm for Standards and Curriculum Committee and early on a Wednesday morning for Staffing, Premises and Finance Committee. Meetings are a mixture of in person at one of the

nursery schools and online via Teams. We can help you get set up with that if you do not have experience using online meeting software. We are also happy to discuss whether we can support with childcare while you are fulfilling your governance duties.

All governors also make a few visits to see the school during the school day throughout the year to support our monitoring schedule. During these visits you will look at what is happening and meet staff and children. You are not expected to assess teaching or learning – you'll be given a specific focus and asked to look for evidence of that. You will be supported by staff and governors and able to access training and advice.

Anyone serving as a school governor is entitled (by law) to ask for time off from their job to do their duties – you may not be paid for that time, but you should be allowed to be absent.

Could you join the team?

If you or someone you know would be able to help in this important and rewarding role please fill out the form below and return it to chair.lhsf@bristol-schools.uk by **20th March 2026** and look out for our serving Governors at morning pick up and afternoon drop off on Wednesday 25th February, 4th March 2026, 11th March and 19th March 2026. Please ask them any questions about their role, our schools or more about their role.

Alternatively, you can email me at chair.lhsf@bristol-schools.uk to arrange an informal chat with a serving governor.

A secret ballot of parents/carers may be held if there is more than one nomination across the two schools for the official parent/governor role – but please don't let that put you off – if you are interested in getting involved we have co-opted spaces and can always find other ways for enthusiastic parents and carers to contribute.

Have a great half term.

Best wishes



Jill Gettrup
Chair of Governors

With permission of the Headteacher - Returning Officer and School Governor

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