

WELCOME TO THE BELHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Belham Primary School is a state-funded two-form entry academy in Peckham, south London. The school opened in September 2015, in a refurbished Victorian school building.

The Belham is part of The Charter Schools Educational Trust, a family of five primary schools and two secondary schools serving communities across the London Borough of Southwark.

Our Local Governing Body is made up of dedicated volunteers who bring a range of skills and experience from their professional, personal and volunteering lives. We are dedicated to diversity among our governing body, and to ensuring that every voice is heard respectfully. We actively welcome and encourage applications from communities who tend to be under-represented in school governance. We are committed to continuous improvement in how representative we are of our local community, gender, ethnicity, religion, age, professional background and all other aspects of diversity.

We are looking to elect one parent governor to join the local governing body at the school.

AN OVERVIEW OF LOCAL GOVERNANCE in TCSET

Each school within the Trust has a Local Governing Body ('LGB') composed of a group of volunteers drawn from the wider community. These volunteers bring a range of skills, expertise, and professional experience to support the school's senior leadership team at a strategic level. Our governors provide essential links between the school, parents/carers, the local community, business, and the Trust board, which is ultimately responsible to the Department for Education for the performance of all its schools.

How do Local Governing Bodies work?

Local Governing Bodies are essentially a committee of the main Trust Board and have functions and responsibilities delegated by the Trust to provide independent strategic oversight of the management and operation of a school, with the aim of improving the quality of education provided and raising standards in line with the overall strategic direction of the Trust. A school's governing body does not run the school on a day-to-day basis; this is the job of the Headteacher and other senior staff.

Local governors' responsibilities are to:

- Develop the school's vision and strategy and agree annual key priorities
- Be guardians and role models of the school's values and behaviours
- Set a culture of high educational standards, which promotes staff and pupil wellbeing
- Ensure the school follows the National Curriculum, and that all pupils, including those with special educational needs (SEND), can access the curriculum
- Monitor provision for pupils with SEND
- Monitor provision for Safeguarding at the school
- Monitor the school's educational performance, using a range of data sources
- Ensure stakeholders (parents, pupils, staff, the local community) are informed and consulted as appropriate
- Monitor the school's financial performance
- Approve and review school level policies, and hold staff to account for their implementation
- Ensure the school is compliant with legal requirements, including that all statutory school level policies and documents are in place

- Monitor and evaluate the school's staffing structure
- Monitor health and safety in the school
- Work in co-operation with the Trust Board, having regard to any guidance it issues and in particular to the Scheme of Delegation (SoD)

Governors are appointed by the Trust Board, except for parent governors, who are elected by parents and carers, and staff governors, who are elected by all school staff.

The Local Governing Body's (LGB) role is to exercise strategic leadership on behalf of the Trust Board in the running of an individual school, to provide information to the Board on the operation and performance of the school and to exercise its responsibilities and powers in partnership with the Headteacher, staff, and the Trust's directors.

The LGB and the school have full, delegated responsibility for the strategic direction and day-to-day leadership and management of the school, which is informed by the Trust [scheme of delegation](#)

Each LGB has a key role to play in the overall development and success of the Trust and in contributing to joint working and sharing best practice between academies within the Trust.

What does this look like in practice?

Local Governing Body meetings - Full LGB meetings are normally held half-termly and whilst there are many important aspects of the role, the most important is the business that takes place at these meetings and the time and preparation each Governor commits to before each meeting.

School visits – The LGBs are responsible for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of a school and its curriculum. School visits will help local governors to understand more about their school and the reality of school life. Governor visits to classrooms are not a form of inspection but serve as a clear monitoring function on the implementation of the school's strategic planning.

Annual Strategy Day – the LGB has a whole-day session once a year, usually in September, at which it sets the school's strategy and considers its longer term aims and direction.

Committee/Working party meetings – The LGB is in effect a committee of the main Trust Board but local governors may be asked to volunteer to sit on other committees or working parties either at Trust level or school level to explore key strategic issues in greater depth. Most local governors are members of one or two committees, whose work is reported back to the full governing body and/or the Trust. This is so all governors are kept informed of matters and working progress. Typical committees can include Special Educational Needs, Pupil Premium, Premises and one-off projects.

Reading & Agenda - Prior to meetings, you will receive an agenda, a copy of the minutes from the previous meeting and any other relevant papers that are to be discussed. It is recommended that you take time to read and familiarise yourself with these documents prior to the meeting. Make notes of anything you are unsure of so you can ask questions at the meeting if necessary.

Training – The Trust buys into the training provided by Southwark. This is free to attend, and all governors have access to the National Governance Association’s online training suite. We expect that all governors will complete the governor induction course as soon as possible after taking up their position.

All governors also have access to the NGA membership.

Time commitment

Local governors are expected to attend half-termly meetings (currently 4 meetings per year) of the full Local Governing Body, usually held in the evening and lasting approximately two hours. There is also the opportunity to sit on additional ad hoc committees and working parties to look at certain areas of governance in greater depth such as Special Educational Needs or Pupil Premium.

Local governors are also encouraged to attend school events such as the annual school productions, concerts and art shows and complete appropriate training.

An appointed or elected local governor’s term of office is usually four years.

Further information

More information about The Charter Schools Educational Trust can be found by visiting tcset.org.uk

The Department for Education Governance handbook and competency framework provides guidance on the roles and duties of governing boards, and advice on the skills, knowledge and behaviours they need to be effective: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/governance-handbook>

To Apply:

Please complete the application form via the link here:

<https://forms.gle/kHhwyasE8iXcfNq79>

Or download the application form from the school website, complete and please return to:

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