



CENTRAL LEARNING
PARTNERSHIP TRUST

Becoming a Parent Governor



WESTCROFT
SCHOOL

Realise your potential

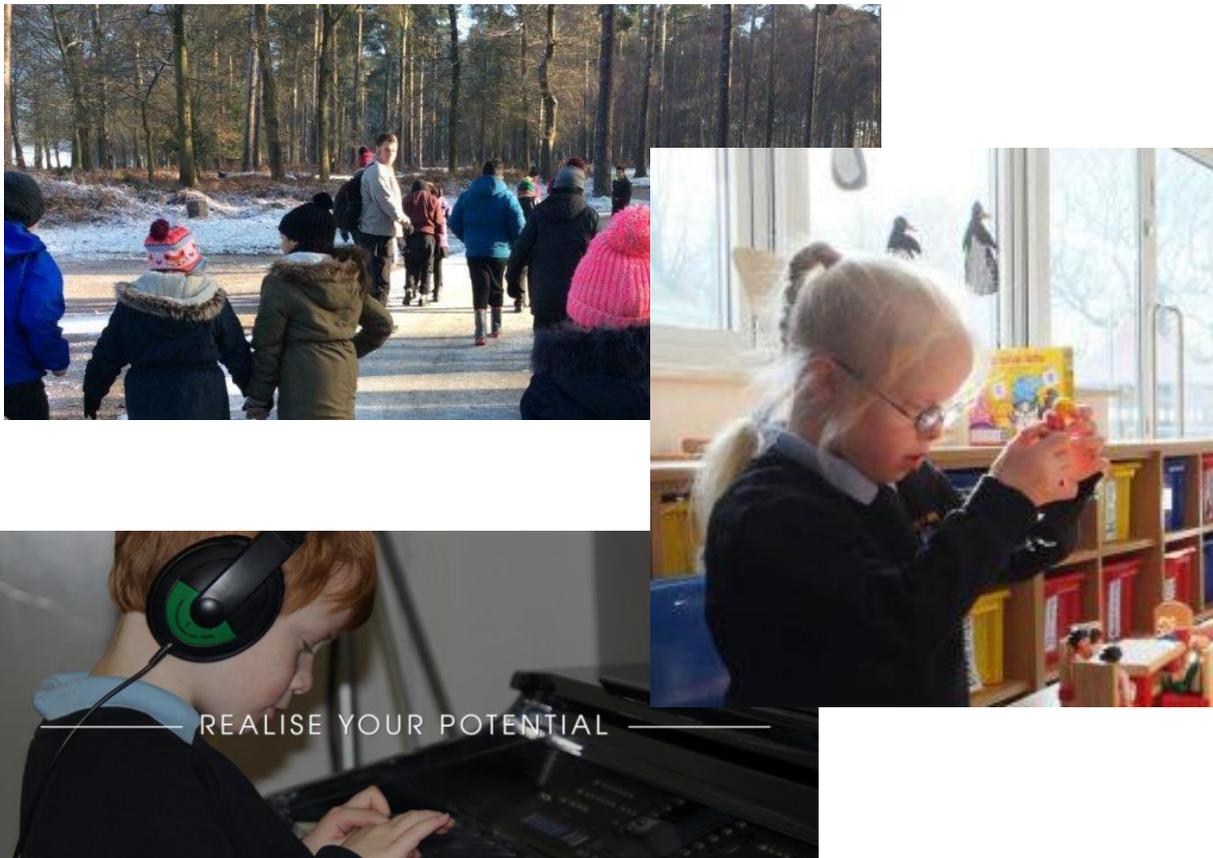


WOLVERHAMPTON
VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE

Parent Governors play a vital role on Governing Bodies, holding the unique position of having a parental viewpoint of the school. Through the children, they have a first-hand experience of the delivery of the curriculum, and how the school is perceived from the 'consumers' point of view. This enables Parent Governors to bring a different perspective to the strategic management of the school.

It is important for Parent Governors to establish a relationship with the parental body which elected him/her, whilst continuing to maintain a strategic approach to school governance.

A Parent Governor needs to be available to advise parents on appropriate routes of action. It is vital that Parent Governors do not personally become involved with individual concerns.



Although this appears to be a complicated role, there is ample support and training available.

Effective Parent Governors will find working alongside the other members of the governing body to ensure that their efforts and the work of the governing body fulfils its duties to all children.

The meetings are 3 times a year and we meet on a Wednesday between 9.30 and 11.30 am. The term of office is for 3 years initially.

Parent Governors may be asked to come in to school for meetings, observations or activities throughout the year.



To effectively fulfil the role, Parent Governors should:

- make themselves known to the parent body
- try to attend in-service training sessions
- listen impartially to concerns raised by parents
- guide parents regarding appropriate lines of action and procedures
- present a balanced view of issues, representing different sections of the community

Achieving a balance between being the impartial representative parent and the often emotional issues relating to individual children's education, can sometimes be very difficult.

Some practical ways to achieve this balance include:

- make yourself available to parents
- never press your own child's case at the expense of others
- never promise to 'solve a problem' on your own
- be wary of bringing an individual's issue to meetings without following the agreed procedures
- abide by the agreed protocol regarding agenda items and Any Other Business
- keep yourself aware of parental views and concerns play an active part in Governor meetings

