

TOWER HAMLETS CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Protocol for the Appointment of Local Authority (LA) Governors

Introduction

The Local Authority (LA) has a responsibility to nominate governors for appointment by governing bodies of all categories of maintained schools under Regulation 8 of the *School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2012*. The number of governors depends upon the constitution adopted. Local Authorities have the power to remove any of their appointed governors for good reason.

This protocol sets out the criteria and methods by which the Children, Schools and Families Directorate will nominate potential governors to governing bodies.

Code of Practice on LA-School Relations

It is for each LA to determine its own arrangements. However, this protocol has full regard for the revised Code of Practice on Local Authority – School Relations 2001 issued under Section 127 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. In respect of the nomination of LA governors, Tower Hamlets will:

- support schools by nominating as local authority governors those who are best qualified to help schools improve;
- when making nominations to particular schools, have regard for those schools with the greatest need;
- when advertising for candidates, highlight the skills and experience required;
- remove local authority governors for good reason and ensure nominations are promptly made when vacancies arise; and
- support governing bodies by ensuring they have the information and training needed to operate effectively.

Nomination Process

Tower Hamlets Council has delegated responsibility for nominating LA governors to the Corporate Director of the Children, Schools and Families, except for where there are more applicants for a particular school than existing vacancies. In these circumstances the decision as to who is nominated is referred to the General Purposes Committee of the Council.

The Corporate Director will make nominations in consultation with the Service Head, Learning & Achievement. The Director may recommend nominees for appointment to certain vacancies by virtue of their expertise which has been matched to expertise that is required by the governing body of a particular school.

The local authority can nominate any eligible person as a local authority governor. Individual applications to become local authority governors come from a number of sources including the following:

- The Education Business Partnership
- Local Industry and commerce
- The School Governors One Stop Shop
- The Collective of Bangladeshi Governors
- The Ocean Somali Community Association (OSCA)
- Individual enquiries through the Governors Services Team
- Tower Hamlets Website.

A person is disqualified from appointment as a local authority governor if they are eligible to be a staff governor of the school or are an employee in Children, Schools and Families Directorate.

The appointments process will be carried out as follows:

1. Governor Services is alerted of a LA governor vacancy
2. Governor Services will identify whether the vacancy is for a nursery, primary, special or secondary school and the length of time the vacancy has existed.

Ethnic Monitoring

Tower Hamlets recognises that many of its ethnic minority groups are under-represented within the school governor population. Accordingly:

- all governors will be asked to complete an ethnic monitoring form on appointment;
- anonymous statistics will be provided where legitimately requested and also used as a tool towards achieving a more balanced representation; and
- Governor Services will actively seek to increase the percentage of black and ethnic minority governors to more closely reflect the cultural diversity of the Tower Hamlets school population.

Term of Office

LA governors are normally appointed for a four-year term of office. Towards the end of this term governors will be asked whether they wish to be

nominated by the local authority for re-appointment by the governing body. There is no automatic right to repeat nomination or of re-appointment.

Removal

LA governors will only be removed during their term of office in exceptional circumstances. There must be clear evidence of serious misconduct.

Examples are:

- non-disclosure of information which would have resulted in the person not being appointed;
- conduct likely to bring the authority or school into disrepute;
- conduct making it impossible for the governing body to carry out its strategic roles;
- conduct seriously disturbing the smooth running of the school;
- persistent failure to attend meetings.

Expectations of LA governors

Local Authority governors would be expected to:

- subscribe to some basic principles: raising achievement and school improvement; schools and the LA working together; inclusion and equal opportunities for all;
- give a *minimum* time commitment: in general be able to attend two full governing body meetings per term, usually held in the evening;
- be willing to join at least one governing body committee or working party;
- be able to visit the school during the day on occasion;
- be willing to undertake training and receive support and advice; and
- identify any relevant skills, interests and experience.

Protocol Review

This protocol will be reviewed as and when required.