



## FAIRLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY

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**Pound Avenue  
Stevenage  
Hertfordshire  
SG1 3JA**

5<sup>th</sup> September 2008

Dear Parents / Carers

### **ELECTION OF PARENT GOVERNOR/S**

There are **2** vacancies for parent governors on this school's governing body. If you would like to stand for election please complete and return the attached form to the school office by **3.15pm on Friday, 12th September 2008.**

You will need to ask another parent of a pupil at the school to sign the form.

Please be aware that regulations require everyone elected or appointed to a governing body to undergo a pre-appointment check, which may include a criminal background check. This is to ensure the safety of the pupils. If you are elected and you subsequently decline to undergo such a check, you will disqualify yourself.

Please give brief details about yourself (**no more than 80 words**) on the form. If an election is needed, these details will be copied and sent to all parents with the ballot papers. **Please note that the 80 word limit will be strictly enforced. Any statement with more than 80 words will be returned to the candidate for amendment.**

If the number of nominations is the same as, or less than, the number of vacancies, then the people nominated will be deemed elected unopposed. If there are not enough nominations, the governing body has the duty to appoint parent governors to fill the remaining vacancy/ies.

The governing body has determined that the term of office for a parent governor is 4 years. If you are elected you may serve the full term of office, even if your child leaves the school before your term of office finishes.

If an election is necessary, we will send you a ballot paper on **Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> September.**

Only parents of children registered at the school are entitled to stand or vote in the election. A parent who is paid to work at the school for more than 500 hours in a school year or is an elected member of the LEA may **not stand** for election.

Each parent will be sent one ballot paper regardless of how many children they have at the school, and each parent will have one vote per vacancy. The ballot will be secret and you will be notified of the result as soon as possible afterwards.

In most cases, it will be obvious whether you are a parent. For the purpose of the election of a parent governor, a parent is :

- someone who has "parental responsibility"
- OR**
- someone who looks after the child on a day-to-day basis (but does not have "parental responsibility")

Cont'd/...

.../2

\*A person has “parental responsibility” if

- she is the child’s natural mother
- OR**
- he is the child’s natural father, and
    - either** was married to the mother on the day of the child’s birth
    - or** subsequently has entered into a legal parental responsibility agreement with the mother
    - or** has been granted a residence order from the court directing the child will live with him or registered or re-registered the child’s birth after 1 December 2003
- OR**
- the child lives with the person as the result of a court order.

Please think seriously about nominating yourself and, if you have any questions about whether you are eligible to stand or vote in the elections or about anything else in this letter, please ask me.

Yours sincerely

**Robert Staples**  
**HEADTEACHER**