

Monday 20th May 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian

In March I wrote to you to tell you that the school had two vacancies for two parent governors. Four parents put themselves forward and so we need to hold an election.

We have now arranged for the election and so I am writing to you to explain what they are.

Everyone who is a parent of a pupil in the school can vote. Each parent has only one vote even if he or she has more than one child at the school.

The definition of a parent is actually quite complicated.

For this ballot, you are a parent if you are:

- The biological parent of a pupil registered at the Academy, whether you are married or not.
- Not a biological parent; but have parental responsibility for a pupil registered at the Academy.
- Not a biological parent and do not have parental responsibility, but have care of a child or young person pupil registered at the Academy.

NB: A person typically has care of a child or young person if they are person with whom the child lives, either full or part time and who looks after the child, irrespective of their biological or legal relationship with the child (for example, a foster carer or family and friends' carer who has been delegated responsibility for taking day-to-day decisions about the child but does not have parental responsibility).

A person who is not the biological parent of a child, who does not have parental responsibility for the child and with whom the child no longer lives is unlikely to be recognised as a "parent".

Those with parental responsibility are:

A child's birth mother (the person that carried the child) has parental responsibility unless it's removed by an adoption order or a parental order following surrogacy.

Where a child's father and mother were married to each other at the time of the child's birth, they each have parental responsibility for the child. Where the parents were not married to each other at that time, the child's father can gain parental responsibility:

- By registering the child's birth jointly with the mother
- By subsequently marrying the child's mother
- Through a 'parental responsibility agreement' between him and the child's mother which is registered with the court
- By obtaining a court order for parental responsibility

Where two female parents have a child through fertility treatment, the mother's female partner is treated in the same way as a father. She has parental responsibility if she is married to or in a civil partnership with the mother at the time of the treatment (or if the two women agree in writing that she will be the child's second parent).

She can also acquire parental responsibility in the same way that child's father can.

People who are not the child's biological mother, father or second female parent can also acquire parental responsibility.

Headteacher **Andrew Seager** Stratford School Academy, Grosvenor Road, Forest Gate, London. E7 8JA
Tel 020 8471 2415 Fax 020 8471 4684 www.stratfordschoolacademy.com email stratford@stratfordschoolacademy.org

Stratford School Academy is a registered company. Registered in England No. 7710532. Registered office, Stratford Academy School, Upton Lane, Forest, Gate, London E7 9PR

Civil partners have parental rights to married people in terms of parental responsibility. The same provisions for married people apply to them in terms of:

- Acquiring parental responsibility – adoption, agreement with their civil partner by an order from the court.
- Holding parental responsibility.

Each of the four candidates has written a statement. [Click here](#) to view these statements.

You can vote on Monday 10th June 2019 between 7:30 AM and 6.00 PM. There will be ballot boxes in the receptions of both our buildings. In order to vote you will have to give us proof of your identity – a driving license, passport or some form of photo ID.

Once the ballot has closed, the votes will be counted. The Returning Officer will supervise the count. The Board of Governors appoints the Returning Officer.

You will be told who has been elected via text message and the school's website.

All parents are entitled to a postal vote. If you want to vote by post, you must fill in an application form and send it back to us by post by Friday 24th May 2019. We will need a separate application form filled in for each parent. [Click here](#) to download the form.

We will then post you a ballot paper for you to fill in and return. You can return your ballot paper by post or you can give it to your child to hand into reception. Either way it **must** reach us by Monday 10th June 2019.

Once you have decided to vote by post you will not be allowed to vote in person.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Seager
Headteacher