BELLINGHAM
PARTNERSHIP OF SCHOOLS

Executive Headteacher: Steve Gibson

20th November 2026

Dear Parent / Carer,

BELLINGHAM PARTNERSHIP OF SCHOOLS (THE BELLINGHAM FEDERATION) GOVERNING BODY

A vacancy has arisen on the Governing Body of the Bellingham Federation for the appointment of a Parent Governor. All Parent Governors must have children at the school (as parent or carer) and must also be elected by the parents and carers of pupils at the school. The period of office for service as a Parent Governor is four years and a Parent Governor would not be obliged to resign from office if his/her child leaves the school, they would be able to remain in office until the expiry of the term of office.

The expectations of Governance are such that Governors are obliged to consider their own skills and abilities in order to identify any gaps or requirements that they might ideally like to have addressed through the appointment of new Governors. In our case we have identified the need to strengthen our capacity in the following areas:

- Educational insight and strategic support: An interest in education and pupil outcomes, with the ability to contribute to strategic decision-making, challenge constructively, and support long-term improvement.
- Community engagement and partnership work: A strong commitment to community involvement with skills in building relationships, representing the federation positively in the community, and strengthening links with families, businesses and community groups.
- Legal, architectural or design expertise: Experience in refurbishment or new builds, ensuring health and safety, and/or legal experience.

Also, it is important that any candidates for the position of Governor understand the level of engagement and commitment required in order to be effective in the role, and to be prepared for the nature and level of the work that might have to be undertaken. I will be happy to discuss these issues with any prospective candidate:

- Minimum of 1 termly governing body meeting, averaging 2-3 hours.
- Additional Committee meetings each term, averaging 2 hours. These might involve school improvement discussions, financial matters, staffing issues, property, buildings and decisions on policy determination.
- Specific issues that could involve a series of connected meetings of a confidential nature, eg capability / disciplinary / complaints
- Willingness to undertake induction and other specific training as required.

Should more than one nomination be received, a ballot will need to be held and candidates will be asked to prepare an election statement to help inform the parent body in coming to their decision of who to vote for. A template for this will be provided.

Bellingham Partnership of Schools, Redesmouth Road, Bellingham, Hexham, Northumberland NE48 2EN
E: middleadmin@bellinghampartnership.uk T: 01434 220 235 W: bellinghammiddle.northumberland.sch.uk *or* bellinghamprimary.northumberland.sch.uk

Prospective candidates need to be aware that it is a legal requirement that Governors are checked to ensure that they are not disqualified from working with children within the precepts of the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000 or because they contravene one of the disqualification conditions imposed in the school governance regulations. This will mean that successful candidates will be required to provide proof of identity, and the completion of (a) declaration form(s), {including a Criminal Records Disclosure and Barring Form} to enable the necessary checks to be carried out.

I understand that you may think that this seems overwhelming and that you might be reluctant to step forward, but the role of Governor can be hugely rewarding in terms of the impact that you can have on the outcomes for children as well as the opportunity to learn and develop new skills that can be of benefit to you beyond the school community. I am happy to have a conversation with any parent/carer who is interested

Any Parent or Carer who does wish to be considered for election should return the completed nomination form to the school office by Monday 7th December 2026.

Yours sincerely,



Steve Gibson,
Executive Headteacher.

BELLINGHAM PARTNERSHIP OF SCHOOLS
PARENT GOVERNOR NOMINATION FORM

The candidate, proposer and seconder must be parents or carers of children on the roll of Bellingham Middle School and/or Bellingham Primary School.

<table>
<tr><td rowspan="2">CANDIDATE:</td><td>Name:</td><td>Address:</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Signature:</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">PROPOSED BY:</td><td>Name:</td><td>Address:</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Signature:</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">SECONDED BY:</td><td>Name:</td><td>Address:</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Signature:</td></tr>
</table>

Please return this form and the personal details form fully completed, to the school office by Monday 7th December 2026.

Personal Details

Name:		**Address:**	
Name of child in school:		**Postcode:**	
Personal statement *In no more than 250 words, explain why you want to serve as a governor and the skills and experience you bring. Please note, this information would be shared with all parents if a ballot is held.*			

By submitting this form, I confirm that I meet the appropriate eligibility rules for being a school governor within the Bellingham Federation, I am not disqualified under school governance regulations and I agree to follow training and code of conduct expectations.