



Our Ref: CS/SWD

21 April 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

Parent Governor Election – Invitation for Nominations

Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy is seeking a new **Parent Governor** to join our Governing Board. This is an important and rewarding voluntary role, offering the opportunity to contribute to the strategic leadership of the school and support our continued improvement.

We are looking for a parent or carer who is committed to the success and wellbeing of all our students and who is willing to give some time, energy and insight to the work of governance.

What the role involves

Governors play a vital part in:

- Providing strategic oversight and holding school leaders to account
- Supporting the school's vision, values and long-term development
- Ensuring the best possible educational experience for every student

To fulfil the role effectively, candidates must be able to:

- Attend Board and Committee meetings, held on **Wednesdays at 5:30pm**, typically once every four weeks
- Be available **occasionally during the school day** to visit the school, meet with leaders, and see the school in action as part of link governor responsibilities
- Take part in **staff and student disciplinary and appeal hearings, staff consultations and parental complaints** when required

Who we are looking for

We welcome nominations from any parent or carer of a **current student**. In particular, we would value nominations from individuals with experience or expertise in:

- IT or digital systems
- Accounting or financial management
- Estates, facilities or health and safety
- Procurement or contract management
- Law or compliance
- Charities, voluntary organisations or community groups

These skills are not essential, but they would strengthen the Board's collective skill and capacity.



Why become a Parent Governor

Being a governor is a meaningful way to:

- Influence the strategic direction of the school
- Support the education and life chances of young people
- Bring your professional skills to a community setting
- Gain valuable experience in leadership, governance and oversight

Full training and support will be provided.

How to put yourself forward

If you would like to discuss the role and its requirements further, please contact Chris Smith, Chair of Governors, at csmith@lordlawson.academy

If you are interested in standing for election, please submit your nomination using the attached form by **Tuesday 6 May 2026**.

Please be aware that there is a restriction on the number of Trustees that are classed as a Local Authority Associated Person (LAAP) which is no more than 19.9%. An LAAP is defined in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 Section 69 as follows:

"For the purposes of this section, a person is at any time associated with a local authority if —

- (a) he/she is at that time a member of the authority;
- (b) he/she is at that time an officer of the authority;
- (c) he/she is at that time both an employee and either a director, manager, secretary or other similar officer of a company which is under the control of the authority; or
- (d) at any time within the preceding four years he has been associated with the authority by virtue of paragraph (a) above."

We are therefore asking you to tell us on your nomination form whether you are an LAAP. Please be advised that if you declare as an LAAP, your successful election may be affected by the number of LAAPs on the Trust Board at the time the election closes.

If there are more nominations than vacancies, we will hold a ballot which will close on Thursday 21 May 2026 and you will be sent a voting paper in due course. We reserve the right to elect additional parent Trustees subject to any restrictions in our Articles of Association.

If successfully elected

The Academy Trust Handbook states that:

"all academy trust members, trustees and individuals on any committees including local governing bodies are required to have an enhanced criminal records certificate from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). Trusts must [also] ensure that their members are not currently subject to a direction made under section 128 of the Education and Skills Act 2008, which prohibits individuals from taking part in academy trust management, and that they do not appoint as a member, a person who is currently subject to a section 128 direction."



Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy

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Principal: Dr Andrew Fowler BA, MA, MSc, PhD, PGCE, NPQEL, FRSA

Failure to apply for a DBS check and section 128 check in a timely manner can result in disqualification and removal from the Trust Board.

Further details on the nomination process and the role will be shared with all nominees.

We warmly encourage parents and carers from all backgrounds to consider this opportunity to make a positive difference to our school community.

Best wishes,

Yours faithfully

Chris Smith
JP, LLB (Hons), Solicitor, SFHEA
Chair of Governors
Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy

Research
Mark *plus*



• Trust • Respect • Courage • Ambition

Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy is an exempt charity. It is a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales (Registered No 7908404 whose registered office is at the address above)





Nomination Form for Parent Trustees

I would like to nominate myself to be a Parent Trustee.

Name: Mrs/Ms/Miss/Mr/Other.....

I am the parent/carer of (please enter below the names of your children who currently attend the Academy, and their year group(s)):

Please use this space for a brief personal statement to support your nomination, setting out clearly the skills you feel you can contribute to effective governance and the success of the Academy. This statement will be circulated to all parents if there is to be a ballot.

LAAP Status (please refer to vacancy letter): YES NO

Please tick both boxes before signing:

I confirm that I have read the Qualifications and Disqualifications (the DfE's model Articles of Association) overleaf and declare that I am not disqualified from serving as an Academy Trustee/Local Governor.

I understand that if successfully elected, I must co-operate with the application for a DBS check and a section 128 check by the Trust.

Signed: _____

Date: _____



Who can serve as a Trustee/Local Governor?

Under the DfE's model Articles of Association a Trustee/Local Governor:

- **Must** be aged 18 or over at the date of election or appointment
- Cannot be a current pupil/student of the Academy/any of the Academies [in the Trust]

A person is disqualified from holding or continuing to hold office if that person:

- has become incapable by reason of illness or injury of managing or administering their own affairs
- has been declared bankrupt and/or their estate has been seized from their possession for the benefit of their creditors and the declaration or seizure has not been discharged, annulled or reduced; or they are the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order or an interim order
- is subject to a disqualification order or a disqualification undertaking under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 or to an order made under section 429(2)(b) of the Insolvency Act 1986 (failure to pay under county court administration order)
- ceases to be a Trustee/Local Governor by virtue of any provision in the Companies Act 2006, or are disqualified from acting as a Trustee/Local Governor by virtue of section 178 of the Charities Act 2011 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that provision)
- has been removed from the office of charity trustee or trustee for a charity by an order made by the Charity Commission or the High Court on the grounds of any misconduct or mismanagement in the administration of the charity for which they were responsible or to which they were privy, or which their conduct contributed to or facilitated
- has at any time, been convicted of a Serious Criminal Offence
- does not provide the Chair with a criminal records certificate at an enhanced disclosure level under section 113B of the Police Act 1997 or if such a certificate discloses information which the Chair considers would make that person unsuitable for their role. If a dispute arises as to whether a person shall be disqualified, a referral shall be made to the Secretary of State to determine the matter. The determination of the Secretary of State shall be final
- refuses to consent to any checks required by the Secretary of State under the provisions of the Funding Agreement, the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 or otherwise; or is found to be unsuitable to be a Trustee by the Secretary of State under the provisions of the Funding Agreement or the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014.

A person shall cease to hold office if they are absent without the permission of the Trustees/Local Governors from all their meetings held within a period of six months and the Trustees/Local Governors resolve that the Trustee's/Local Governor's office be vacated.