



23rd November 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Governing Body - Parent Governor Election Ballot Arrangements

Further to my letter dated 17th October, I am writing to inform you that I have received seven nominations for the position of parent governor.

Please find enclosed a ballot paper, which must be emailed to parentgovernor@oswaldroad.manchester.sch.uk no later than Thursday 7th December at 12.00pm.

Parents must put their full name in the body of the email and attach their ballot paper to the email. This is so that we can ensure that no parent has voted more than once. Votes must be anonymous and therefore you must not put your name anywhere on the ballot paper itself.

If you would rather vote using a paper ballot, this can be done via the school office.

Please read all of the candidate statements attached to this letter. There are currently **two** vacancies and therefore you will/ be entitled to vote for **two** of the candidates.

The date and time of the count will be 1:30pm on Thursday 7th December and candidates are invited to attend the vote count. An independent scrutineer will be present during the count. If you are a candidate and would like to attend the vote count, please contact Ellie Linton in the school office.

The two parents polling the highest number of votes will be declared duly elected to the governing body. In the event of a tied vote, the parent(s) with the youngest child registered at the school will be declared elected.

The result of the election will be displayed in the entrance to the school for a period of seven days and will be circulated to all parents at the school's earliest convenience.

Kind Regards,

Deborah Howard
Headteacher

Candidate Statement- David Butler

My son has recently started in Reception and my daughter will be joining in the next couple of years, so I will have a connection with the school for years to come. I've already seen the positive impact the school has had on my son and his friends, and I would love the opportunity to be a part of ensuring that continues for all children at the school.

I grew up with a primary school teacher for a mum, and my wife Jayne is also a primary school teacher, so throughout my life I have seen and heard about the rewarding nature of the job but also the challenges faced. I know how much teachers care about their pupils, and have seen first hand how much of a difference school leadership (both good and bad) can make to their wellbeing and ability to do their job.

I would like to learn more about the inner workings of the school and how and why decisions are made, and ultimately play a small role in allowing the school to provide the best possible education.

I also have a keen interest in health and fitness and safe active travel, particularly for children, and feel that there should be safe options for pupils to walk or wheel to school. Although I understand the challenges faced, I would like the opportunity to encourage this being part of the school's vision.

I am an experienced commercial property solicitor. Although not related to education, my job involves transferable skills which I believe will be helpful in the parent governor role: commercial awareness, clear communication, and the ability to analyse and challenge information. I'm used to dealing with experts in various fields, and I'm happy to be informed and guided by them while raising appropriate challenges if necessary. I would look to take that same approach as a parent governor.

Candidate Statement- Nic McAllister

There are three reasons why I would like to be a school governor.

I believe I have a range of valuable skills and experience gained from both the workplace and throughout my personal life to make a difference to the school and the pupils who go there, which includes our two kids and the kids of a large network of parent friends made through school.

I'm also at a point in my life where I can "give something back" to our brilliant community which is something that I have not done before or considered until recently, in favour of prioritising my career and family at home.

Finally, being involved in a public sector organisation will be great for my personal growth and development giving me a rounding and new experience I can't get in my current line of business.

I have a range of transferable skills and experience from working 25 years at large media and broadband companies including Sky and more recently TalkTalk where I am now the General Manager of Origin Broadband with responsibilities for budgets and performance management, prioritisation and allocation of limited resources, HR and people processes for both UK and overseas staff. Working with a wide and varied group of people in person and virtually, including three Unions and the regulatory body Ofcom. I have great relationships with everyone and always aim to make it fun whilst we're doing difficult and important things

I can commit my time and energy, motivated by the fact my two sons are in Y4 and Y2 so I will have a child at Oswald Road for the four years of the governor position

I get things done! I will listen to everyone's views but when a decision is needed I'll take it, and then don't waste time in getting going.

Candidate Statement- Nidia Alvarez Armada

I am a researcher at the University of Manchester within the school of natural sciences. I also have forged connections with the beautiful Manchester Museum. I am interested in accessibility of the latest science discoveries and current paths of enquiry to the general public. I believe children are important communicators and the base for our society. I believe my links with the university and Oswald Road Primary School will provide benefits to the scientific development of our children.

I have been involved with schools outreach for many years. I have developed activities related to science for all years of school-aged children, for which I always received very good feedback.

Candidate Statement- Nina Chase

Firstly, it would be good to give something back to a great community. It's not only my daughter who I wish to see thrive in life and education, but also the many children of friends and neighbours whose children attend Oswald Road. I'd like to have a chance to see how things work and offer any skills I may have. I also think that teacher support is overlooked and I'd like to be able to offer my opinions and help with choices.

I've worked with children in two separate environments, all with different needs and cultures. I worked in a special needs camp in America and see how cross cultures don't always communicate well. Plus on a TV show (Waterloo Road) casting the children. I see how things do and don't benefit children. As a caring, loyal, diplomatic and trustworthy person, I may do ok here.

Candidate Statement- Shabnam Motteram

Having attended Oswald road myself it would mean a lot to me to become a parent governor. My son has started nursey this year and I would like to be able to advocate for the best educational experience for my him and other children. I think it is important for for to provide a parents perspective to the board when their making decisions for the schools strategy and direction. In my job I work in client relations which includes understanding budgets and planning for future eventualities. I think is would be an asset as a parent governor. I am part of two steering committees at work who`s focus is particularly on gender and the way this is represented within the workplace, I would be able to bring this knowledge in to support the school with this.

I am currently studying a CIPD in HR level 5 alongside working which gives me a good insight into legislative policies.

I am keen to ensure that all children are safeguarded well and can fulfil their full potential whatever their background, special educational needs or disabilities.

I am not afraid to ask difficult questions if necessary on behalf of all the children and also want to support the school and staff who work so hard.

- HR experience as currently studying my CIPD level 5
- I work in a Cyber security company so used to work with confidential documentation and clients
- Work well in a team and have good interpersonal skills
- Some finance experience
- Interested in taking the the local authority training for parent governor

Candidate Statement- Sylwia Zywotko

I believe that my professional skills, combined with my passion for making a difference to the lives of children, who need care and attention, would make up an excellent choice for a role of parent governor. It is important for me to promote high standards of education and achievement, I would love to be part of planning the school's long-term future and support promoting school's aims and values,

I am a parent of two young children, with an MA in pedagogy and BA in elementary education. I am a Montessori teacher and a trainer and the owner of the new outstanding nursery setting in Whalley Range. My experience is in education and learning/teaching which governors may find useful/helpful.

Candidate Statement- Victoria Wilshaw

I have two children aged 6 and 8, who have attended Oswald Rd Primary School since Nursery. Over the last 4 years I have spent time getting to know the school and it's associated community and have felt more of a pull towards contributing to the well-being and growth of the children over this time.

I would like to extend my contribution to the future of the school through being a part of and having influence within the governing body.

I am passionate about children's rights and well-being and for this reason, I would like to advocate for the children and families at Oswald Rd by listening to the views within our school community and developing meaningful relationships that foster trust, transparency and collaboration and I would seek to further promote these principles in the school in areas such as policy and communication.

I understand and empathise with some of the complexities of keeping well-being and enjoyment at the heart of an education setting and feel my experience and skills from roles within the public and charity sectors would be a valuable contribution in this area.

I have worked with children, young people, and families in Greater Manchester for the past 16 years - many of which have experienced high levels of trauma or struggled with special education needs and/or neurodiversity. Working with such a variety of people in several roles, including therapeutic family work and advocacy, I have learnt a lot about mental health & well-being, neurodiversity, trauma and recovery and how systems around children play such a vital role in influencing the outcomes and aspirations of our children.

In many cases, I have advocated for marginalised children and young people and made professional challenges to the systems around them – this includes education, the prison service, health and social care.

I have been fortunate enough to work in many different schools and establishments across the borough and this has given me insight and experience of different approaches to learning and development within the school environment.

I feel connected to the Oswald Rd Community, and over the last 4 years I have built solid relationships with other parents and have experienced first-hand the support and generosity of the school community. It would be a privilege to represent you all as a parent governor.