



Drake Primary School and Little Pirates



We unlock opportunity and inspire everyone.

Monday 2nd October 2023

Dear Parents & Carers

I wrote to you on Friday 22nd September 2023 to invite nominations for the vacancies for two parent governors.

As we have more candidates than vacancies (four parents have applied), we must now hold a ballot. With this letter you will have received a ballot paper with the names of the candidates. You may vote for up to two of the candidates.

You should;

- read the candidate statements attached to this letter
- Mark an X alongside the candidate's names you wish to vote for. Do not mark the ballot paper in any other way
- Insert the completed ballot paper in an unmarked envelope and seal it.
- Return your ballot paper to the school office by **12 noon on Monday 16th October 2023** and place in the ballot box.

If you have any queries about this process, please contact the school office by email.

Yours sincerely

Louise McLeod
Executive Headteacher

Executive Headteacher: Louise McLeod

Chris France – Statement

As a parent of two children at Drake, and a third expected to join the school in the next few years I have an invested interest in supporting the school and the federation in their current and future plans. I am regularly on the school run and hear people's views on the schools' successes as well as concerns. I would like to play my part in ensuring not just Drake but the federation have the best resourcing and skills to shape its future in the short and longer term.

My day job requires me to be an effective problem solver by removing inefficiencies and distractions - a skill set which I feel will be useful for the role of Governor. If I'm elected as a Governor for the federation I would work towards ensuring all decisions benefit both schools equally. I am not afraid to question the advantages of the federation and will call an end to the federation if the perceived benefits are not realised. I'm approachable and would always be happy to discuss any issues or worries at the school gates and provide a voice at federation meetings.

Jade Gooch – Statement

I am a new parent to the school community. My child has recently joined this year's Reception class and will be followed by his twin siblings from September 2024. When looking at schools this time last year, Drake stood out for being a nurturing school that strives for the best outcomes for its pupils. As a mixed race family, we were also impressed by the schools approach to diversity and I would appreciate the opportunity to work alongside leaders to help the school continue to thrive. Although, I am new to the school community I am keen to become a supportive member of the Governing team. As a teacher myself, I feel that I could become a valuable member of the Governing Board as I am able to approach this role with the experience of working in schools as well as offering a parental perspective. I have been part of my own schools governing body in the past so I am aware of what the role entails and how to support and challenge the school to provide the best outcome for the children and staff within the Halcyon Federation. My experience has provided me with the skills and knowledge to be an effective governor. I have a good understanding of the National Curriculum and how this relates to the progress of pupils within the school, including those with Special Educational Needs, I also understand the importance of strong safeguarding practices within the federation. I have worked in my current job role for 13 years and during this time have collaborated with local schools so would be able to work successfully to drive outcome for both schools within the federation. I am hoping to be successful in my application to help the school continue to grow and strive for the best outcome for all pupils.

Tamsin Robertson – Statement

I hold over 10 years' experience in education, primarily working as a teacher in a complex needs school with exceptional safeguarding standards and that has been awarded four 'Outstanding' OFSTED ratings during my tenure. Alongside teaching and team management, in my current role, I hold responsibilities for the progression, assessment, coordination and

the development of a bespoke curriculum of Global Studies; spanning the subjects of history, geography, RE and multiculturalism, and languages within the school. I regularly complete Education Health Care Plans (EHCP's) and work with a range of professionals including Speech and Language Teams (SALT), occupational therapists, educational psychologists and social workers to create the best learning experience for each pupil. I believe these skills, alongside budgeting responsibilities for my class and subject, and knowledge of the education system, places me in a fantastic position to be a valuable asset to both the development of our children and building a successful community under the banner of the newly formed Halcyon Federation. Whilst my passion for education and learning fuel some of the professional skills I can offer, it is the desire to see our pupils flourish under the Federation that really drives me. I have two children who are just starting their education journey at Wicklewood Primary School and wish to see them building their independence, reaping the benefits of a range of experiences, inside and outside, and nurturing a lifelong love of learning. I feel motivated and invested to ensure that all pupils across Drake and Wicklewood schools have all the support and guidance available to reach their full potential in an exciting and nurturing environment, whatever their background, educational needs or abilities. I understand the importance of creating opportunities for all, whilst responsibly maximising budget under the current financial pressures. Thank you for considering me for the role, it's an opportunity that excites me and should I be successful, I look forward to meeting with as many of you as possible very soon.

Nathaniel Webbe – Statement

My current occupation has many qualities that I would consider to be transferrable to the role of parent Governor. At present I have superiors & subordinates. Being able to discuss various opinions & options with both colleagues, collating an unbiased view and deciding, on the most effective way to progress forwards together, whether it be individually or jointly, then creating a framework to deliver on that message is a regular occurrence. Clear communication skills, including active listening. Another quality I possess and that I believe would be beneficial is the ability to “think differently”. I’m not looking to upset the status quo, but I most certainly will question the effectiveness of decisions being made, where I feel appropriate. With the first of my 3 children recently joining the school, this was not only our first choice but our only choice, the key values of the school mirrors the same values we have at home. I am an invested father & want to ensure that beyond everything else we remember that the decisions we make today for our children will have an impact that could very well be life changing for them. For me it is important to always make decisions with that in mind. This is already apparent within the school given the eclectic nature & variety of extra-curricular activities available to the children as this unlocks so many opportunities for the children to experience something that they might never had known was an option to them and provides them with an opportunity to flourish at something new. The devil is in the detail, with whatever decisions that are taken it’s important to ensure a review is carried out to evaluate all potential outcomes, before blindly moving forwards. This applies to any & all decisions being made whether it be for a short, mid or long term agenda.