



St John's Highbury Vale C of E Primary School

Conewood Street, London N5 1DL

Tel: 020 7226 4906

E-mail: admin@stjhv.islington.sch.uk

Head of School: Mrs Lindsey Hodgson

Executive Head: Mrs Tonnie Read

Wednesday 8th December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

On Monday 13th December, we will hold the election for the two parent governor positions we are looking to fill. Each parent in the school has the right to make one vote for the candidate they feel would be a good representation for the parent community on the governing board.

Below you will find the personal statements of the four candidates. Please read each statement carefully and vote for only ONE candidate.

Attached to the bottom of this letter is a voting form, however voting forms are also available in paper form at the front office. The ballot box will also be located at the front office. The ballot box will not be opened until 4.30pm on Monday 13th December.

If you can not get into school to give your vote, you are welcome to send a postal vote or vote via e-mail to admin@stjhv.islington.sch.uk with the title Parent Governor Vote.

Joanna Aunon – Personal Statement

I'm Joanna and I'm mum to Sam T. in Year 2 and Grace in Reception. I've lived in Highbury for 15 years and love being part of the St John's community.

At work, I'm the Director of Women in Hospitality (WIHTL) and Diversity in Retail, which are two organisations dedicated to helping businesses become more diverse, equitable and inclusive. My earlier career has been in Human Resources, heading up recruitment and talent development for several household brand names. I'm also on the Advisory Board of a Scholarship fund that helps hospitality students from disadvantaged backgrounds cover the cost of their equipment and fees so they can pursue their chosen career.

I'd love to be a Parent Governor as my working life has focussed on supporting young people to reach their potential. And my experience in HR brings professional insight into a variety of topics including organisational and people development as well as successfully delivering a wide range of projects to help improve the working practices of the companies I have worked for.

My passion though is inclusion. In no small part this comes from everything my son Sam has taught me. Sam is autistic and so has special educational needs. I believe that if we enable an environment where staff and pupils feel they belong and feel included then we help to build and strengthen their confidence and support them to reach their potential. As a Parent Governor I would love to champion these important subjects, and help support the StJHV leadership team to continue and progress even further the great work being done at our school.





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Alex Macfarlane – Personal Statement

I live locally and have had a long-standing relationship with St John's, since my eldest child, Evan, joined Reception in 2015. All three of my children are currently at St John's – Years 6 (Evan), 3 (Sam) and Reception (Helena). I have been an active part of the school community during this time (including as a class rep and volunteer at numerous school events) and I look forward to many more years ahead! Like many of us, I've seen how a strong parent/carer community and Board of Governors can help shape, and add value to, the school and provide more opportunities for all our children at St John's. I am grateful for that and very keen to help ensure this continues.

The long-term viability and funding for St John's as a single form entry school, with a unique community feel, is very important to me. Special Educational Needs provision is something I am passionate about, having a child with SEN myself, and the impact appropriate funding can have on this. With the challenge of falling pupil numbers across London, I'd like to help ensure St John's remains a popular and oversubscribed school, continuing to attract the best teachers and ensuring we give our children a happy, fulfilling and enriching school experience.

Job wise, I am Head of Maritime & Supply Chain Analysis for Department for Transport, a senior economist role within central Government, where I work flexibly to balance my childcare responsibilities. Key skills include strong communication and stakeholder management, leadership/people management, financial management, cost/benefit analysis and ensuring public money is put to the best possible use.

As a parent governor, my focus would be to listen, inclusively, to the whole school community, to help represent you and ensure our wonderful school continues to be Outstanding.

For the past 5 years, I have also volunteered in the community as an Assistant Scout Leader for the 34th Islington Group, organising a variety of activities and offsite events for the children as part of this role.

Catriona Jenkins – Personal Statement

I would be delighted to contribute to the continued development of St John's as a Parent Governor because I feel passionately about the importance of education to change children's lives. With my eldest child having started Reception in September, I have seen first hand the impact of high quality, values based teaching across a broad range of subjects and I hope to be involved with the school for many years to come as my younger two children reach primary school age.

I could bring expertise in teaching and learning and school leadership as I have over fifteen years of experience teaching in secondary schools in London and am currently Deputy Headteacher of a large school in north west London, where my key responsibilities include oversight of teaching and learning, outcomes for disadvantaged and able and talented students, and making staffing and budgeting decisions. I therefore have experience of the day to day running of the school as well as strategic planning for improvement. I am not afraid to make difficult





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decisions in the best interests of children, but I also understand how important it is to celebrate and support dedicated staff who work together to make a real difference to the lives of the children in their care.

In addition, I am a committed member of Christ Church in Highbury and regularly lead Junior Church groups and therefore feel that my own Christian values firmly support those of the school.

If elected as a Parent Governor, I would offer commitment, enthusiasm and determination to work with staff and to be a link for communication between governors and parents.

Alice Morgan – Personal Statement

I would like to be a parent governor as I wish to be part of a support system for St John's. However should the need arise I would like to think I will be prepared to challenge any aspects that need addressing. I understand a parent governor is to listen to all sides to and assist in finding a solution.

I have one child who is in Year 1 and due to Covid we had minimal physical contact with the school in his first year. This has made me want to be more involved in the school and feel this could be the right role to do so.

Since my child has started his journey with his Reading and Writing this has given me more appreciation for the curriculum and the role the teachers play in putting it into practice. As someone who was diagnosed with Dyslexia at a young age and with the help and support of my school (and the local hospital) I was able to overcome this disability and therefore I fully appreciate the help and support from teachers to those with special needs.

I have read the Ofsted report and was impressed with the relationship that the school has with the governing body and I would like to be part of the ongoing relationship.

I am an Executive Assistant by profession and have always valued the support from behind for the greater good. And I feel this is a key element for a Parent Governor to be supportive but not obstructive. As part of this role team work is paramount and would want this to be key part of my contribution as a parent governor.

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank the four candidates for showing an interesting in working with the school and the rest of the governing body. I wish all four the best of luck. Results of the two successful candidates will be announced on Tuesday 14th December.

Yours faithfully,

Lindsey Hodgson
Head of School





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BALLOT PAPER FOR THE ELECTION OF PARENT GOVERNOR TO THE GOVERNING BODY OF ST JOHN'S Highbury Vale Church of England Primary School

Monday 13th December 2021

9am – 4.30pm

(VOTES CAST AFTER 4PM ON 9th MAY WILL NOT BE COUNTED)

You may vote for 1 candidate only. Do this by putting an "X" in the box next to the name of the candidate you are voting for;

e.g:

A. Parent	X
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The names of the candidates standing in this election are given below:

Joanna Aunon	
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Catorina Jenkins	
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Alex MacFarlane	
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Alice Morgan	
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DO NOT PUT ANY OTHER MARK ON THIS BALLOT PAPER

