



Scholes (Elmet) Primary
St James' CE Primary
Moortown Primary

Tuesday 11 July 2017

Dear parent / carer

ELECTION OF A PARENT GOVERNOR

We recently wrote to all parents and carers regarding the Parent Governor vacancy, and to seek nominations. As the number of nominations received exceeds the number of Parent Governor vacancies, it is now necessary to hold a ballot.

Details about the voting process and a link to the online ballot link is below, and the candidates' statements are attached. Every parent of a registered pupil at school is eligible to vote.

Before you decide who to vote for, please bear in mind that the Governing Body would benefit most from new governors with expertise in one of three areas:

- Knowledge and understanding of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
- Experience in HR and performance management
- Competency in educational data analysis

Governors will also need to be able to understand their role is strategic and not operational; build relationships with a range of people; work as part of a team; question and challenge; make connections between different types of information; and represent the three schools and their community.

Some key points about the election are:

- Each parent has one vote, regardless of how many children he/she may have registered at the schools.
- We have received nominations from seven candidates. You may vote for one candidate only.
- Voting will be conducted via an online ballot, using this link: <https://goo.gl/LUCBGF>

Voting is very straightforward. To vote, please:

- 1) read the candidates' statements and decide who you would like to vote for
- 2) go to the following link: <https://goo.gl/LUCBGF>
- 3) type your full name and indicate which school your child(ren) attend(s)
- 4) click submit, then click on the voting link
- 5) select the candidate you wish to vote for
- 6) click submit
- 7) close your browser

The ballot closes at 12 noon on Tuesday 18 July. The result of the election will be confirmed on the school websites.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Roundtree".

David Roundtree
Head of Federation

Candidate statements

Matthew Baker

I have worked in HR in the NHS for approximately fifteen years, including roles at Leeds Teaching Hospitals and the Yorkshire Ambulance Service. For the last three years I have been an HR Manager at NHS Digital, working directly with the Senior Management Team, providing coaching and expert advice on a range of employee relations issues, including performance management, grievances, attendance and behaviours.

I am a Chartered Member of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD), I hold Postgraduate Diplomas in Personnel Management and in Legal Practice and earlier this year I secured my Masters in Law, with a specific focus on employment law. I therefore believe I have the professional credentials to serve as a Parent Governor.

Outside of work I spend as much time as possible with my wife, Catherine, and our five year old daughter, Freya, who is in Miss Eckersley's class at Scholes (Elmet) School. Freya is unquestionably our pride and joy and our greatest source of happiness and I recognise that the role of Parent Governor represents an opportunity for me to enhance my experience, whilst also contributing in a meaningful way to my daughter's education and, ultimately, the advancement of the Sphere Federation.

Vien Cheung

The external environment is challenging and becoming ever more so. The future is difficult to predict but education is perhaps the best insurance policy to allow future sustainability. As an academic in the University of Leeds I deliver teaching to students at different levels (undergraduate and postgraduate), ages (young and mature) and backgrounds (in terms of communities, cultures and nations). It is my belief that early education is an important foundation for effective tertiary learning and to the development of subject specialisms.

I have gained some insights into how schools work, and how education in early stage allows positive influence on children's lives, through my 2-year term (06/2015 - 07/2017) as a co-opted governor of a primary school in its improving stage. I also gained some understandings on current educational initiatives and concerns in my capacity of a member of the Leeds City Council's Governors Forum (since 02/2016). In the wider education and society environment, I am the Treasurer of The Colour Group (Great Britain) – an educational charity – aims to disseminate colour knowledge to the public. I am enthusiastic to continue contributing to the community by being a governor member of Sphere Federation.

Laura Nowak

I have 12 years' experience as a teacher, working with a range of SEND children within an educational setting. In my current role, I lead the performance management of a team of seven teachers, at varying stages in their careers, including two NQTs. For a number of years, I have been involved in the analysis of data in statutory year groups as well looking at RAISE data and creating standardisations in data dashboards for non-statutory year groups.

I recently undertook further part-time studies in Psychotherapy and counselling and have a keen interest in mental health and well-being, with a particular focus on young people and children. I really enjoy walking and exploring the countryside with my family. I recently begun to learn the ukulele in my spare time, although many would argue I need to keep practising.

My step children attend Scholes Elmet School and will both be in KS1 next year and my children will be attending Moortown Primary School when they are of school age. I would feel honoured to represent the three schools within the Sphere Federation and their communities. I understand the role of a governor is key to the effectiveness of a school and ultimately, children's lives.

Jude Rawlings

I am the mum to Sam (Y1, Moortown), Danny who starts in September, and baby Sophie (7 weeks) – so my children will be attending Moortown for the next 11 years.

I am standing for election because I want to represent you, and the parents of the three Sphere schools, as we aim to give our children the best start in life.

I know that the governors have an important role to play in scrutinising strategic direction and educational and financial performance. When I'm not having babies I work as a commercial litigation solicitor for one of the world's largest law firms, so am used to reading lengthy reports, interpreting data and asking challenging questions. I believe that experience will be of assistance to the governing body.

My husband and close friends are primary school teachers, so I understand the challenges schools face with budgetary constraints, the curriculum and pressure to meet targets. I believe there is a balance between meeting those targets and ensuring that our children are happy and develop their own talents.

If elected as governor I am keen to work for greater integration between the three Sphere schools whilst allowing each school to maintain its own individuality.

Kate Sibson

Hello, I'm Kate Sibson and I've got two boys at Scholes in years 5 and 1. I'd really like to become a parent governor to be a voice for parents and carers within the governing body and ensure that each school is doing its best to reflect on their feedback and support all children to achieve their potential.

Whilst my main job is in Commissioning and Procurement with the Council, I'm also a stand in clerk to take minutes at governing body meetings across the city. It's been fascinating to see the different standards and approaches across schools. I've learned a lot about best practice, in particular how to positively assess and challenge progress and leadership, what Ofsted inspectors are looking for, how to communicate and consult with parents and carers, and the interventions that really make a difference.

As school budgets tighten, I hope that my procurement experience will ensure that money is well spent. I've previously worked in community development, consulting with residents and supporting community projects.

In my personal life, I love days out with the family, learning to sew and catching up with friends.

Rita Singh

I have over 17 years of experience in a multinational financial institute, having worked both abroad and UK, thereby have extensive experience working collaboratively in different culture and communities. In my current role I work as a Performance Management Analyst where I help and assist in formulating strategies and evaluation of outcome. I do this by working closely with teams, data analysis and evaluating performance.

I have a 6 year old daughter in Scholes Primary School.

I am fortunate that the company I work for is involved heavily in community work where I get involved. Outside work most recently was a 9 mile walk for support of St Gemma's Hospice, it was very tiring but gave me immense satisfaction to be involved for such a good cause for fund raising.

Fortunately I was able to get reduced work hours and currently work part time which will give me time to contribute and support the school if elected Governor.

I can bring my realms of experience, ability to connect, problem solving and analytical attitude to benefit the school's strategic decisions if chosen a Parent Governor.

Helen Stuttard

My daughter Annabelle Stuttard is a year 3 pupil at Scholes (Elmet) School and I have a vested interest in the Sphere Federation as well as all the children who are part of the Sphere Federation schools and the wider community.

I am employed as a Senior Recruitment Manager by Mitchells & Butlers who are a restaurant, pub & bar company employing 45,000 people in the UK. I am a HR professional and lead a team of individuals to deliver agreed Key Performance Indicators. As well as my day to day people manager role, I manage strategic areas within the function to ensure that areas of recruitment are reviewed and change implemented to improve the overall processes. Also as part of my role, I analyse key information such as budgets, return on financial investment and recruitment metrics. After analysing key data, I review and recommend what improvements can be made.

I have a good knowledge of policies in my current organisation and know the importance of reviewing and updating policies and procedures in a timely manner as well as implementing them and I believe I would be able to contribute to this area as a Parent Governor.

In my spare time, I enjoy running as well as doing 10K races and Park Run. With working in the hospitality industry, I have a passion for food and enjoying dining out.