

The Federation of Boldmere Schools

Cofield Road · Sutton Coldfield · B73 5SD

Our Vision: The Federation of Boldmere Schools empowers all children to embrace learning; achieve their personal best; and build their social, emotional and physical wellbeing.

Personal Statements for nominated parent governors

Personal Statement: Avtar Bhogal

I'm currently Creative Services Manager at the Stroke Association. I oversee the delivery of content and creative by leading a team of editorial and design staff. I'm responsible for ensuring copy and creative are delivered on time and for promoting quality content and creative as a means to help colleagues to achieve corporate objectives. I hold a degree in Graphic Communication and was primarily a Graphic Designer in the early stages of my career.

I recently achieved a distinction in the CMI level 5 Diploma in Management and Leadership and am recognised as a Chartered Manager (CMgr MCMI).

I've been managing teams for 10+ years within public and third sector roles with varying degrees of responsibility which include, but not limited to,

- Budget management
- PDRs
- Team building
- Interviewing and selection
- Project management
- Stakeholder management and engagement
- Brand and creative strategy

Personal Statement: Simon Clifford

I am Simon Clifford, father of a son in Yr2 and a daughter in Reception. The four year tenure as a Parent Governor would see both my children progress through infant school and into junior school giving me first hand experience of the staff and SLT of both schools which should allow me, as a Governor, to better support the school and its staff to continue to improve and develop in order to achieve and maintain a deserved OFSTED rating and local reputation.

I am a qualified Civil Engineer and have worked as a Civil and Structural Engineer throughout the UK and now as a project manager for a family manufacturing firm with facilities in both the UK and Japan.

I have experience of working with multi disciplinary design teams, to deliver various infrastructure projects and buildings including for the education sector as well as carrying out surveys and writing reports for a wide variety of clients. I now manage and maintain a number of industrial buildings as well as running other manufacturing based projects.

I have a broad knowledge of Health & Safety in the construction and manufacturing industries. I've also worked in the events industry and as a lifeguard, both of which offer a unique perspective on H&S and safeguarding.

I have also completed ISO 9001 Internal auditor training and provide internal audits of various processes and activities within my current employers business.

Although I have no experience of school governance, I have, during my career, attended board meetings and managed sizeable budgets and resources. I've volunteered my time for several organisations both professional and non. For example, the school PTA, for which I've helped with marketing and the running of events. Most recently I trained as a volunteer vaccinator for St John Ambulance.

I'm fortunate in that my employer is supportive of employees' involvement in their communities and my role involves working from home allowing me to manage my time, which allows me some flexibility with regards to attending meetings and any required Governor training.

I welcome the opportunity to bring my various experience, knowledge and skills to the Board of Governors to assist in delivering the schools vision to build our children's emotional, social and physical wellbeing by providing the best environment and education opportunities available.

Personal Statement: Peter Donovan

I wish to express my interest in the vacancy for a Parent Governor position on the Governing Board for Boldmere Infant and Junior School.

As an Associate Governor at the school for over 12 months, I recognise and understand the importance of the Governing Board and its role in supporting the school senior leadership team (SLT) and staff. I have learned a vast amount about the role and accountabilities of the Governing Board and my experience as an Associate Governor has given me real insight into the pressures faced by all the staff, especially at the height of the recent pandemic. As a Parent Governor, I can provide insight from my career and experience to help the Governing Board with objective decision making to support strategic planning and ensure the best educational performance from the school. I am passionate about helping both schools deliver the very best for all the children at this crucial point in their lives. Both of my children attend the Junior and Infant school respectively and as a result I am really invested in what the school does to progress and support their development. I have witnessed first-hand the impact of the excellent teaching delivery within the school and I want to help this continue and improve.

I have attached my CV for reference. I have 9 years-experience in various management roles within Network Rail and prior to this I served for 9 years as an Army Officer in the Corps of Royal Engineers. Notably I was the Programme Manager for Network Rail's Year 1 NVQ L3 Apprenticeship programme and a Platoon Instructor at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. Both roles provided me with experience in delivery of a vocational teaching framework and exposure to the practicalities of training and teaching delivery, including Ofsted assessment, teaching preparation and financial planning.

I am currently employed as an Infrastructure Maintenance Delivery Manager for Network Rail. I am responsible for the maintenance and faulting for all power distribution, signalling and track assets between Coventry, Birmingham New Street and Wolverhampton. I lead a large team (357) and there are many similarities with the challenges faced by my Delivery Unit and the School, including staff safety, management of risk and cost consciousness. My experience in these areas would hopefully benefit the school given the ongoing challenges that these issues present.

I have hugely enjoyed my time as an Associate Governor, and I would be delighted if offered the position of Parent Governor on the Governing Board.

Personal Statement: Tara Morton

My youngest daughter is currently in year one at Boldmere Infant School and she is thriving due to the welcoming environment, fantastic community spirit and the support and encouragement that she receives. I have thoroughly enjoyed seeing my daughter develop and grow during her time at the school and I am keen to support the governing board to ensure that all children continue to receive the same excellent standard of education that she currently does.

I am an early years lecturer at Stafford College where I work with students from various backgrounds and with a range of special educational needs; I believe that my experience in the educational setting can support the board moving forward as I can draw on my own experience of working within the sector to both support and challenge the school where necessary. I believe my degree in Sociology and Childhood and Family Studies also gives me a broad understanding of the issues that schools face.

A core tenant of my teaching practice is to ensure that all children receive an outstanding education in an inclusive setting where they can reach their highest potential whilst simultaneously nurturing their emotional wellbeing. These past 14 months have been an exceptionally challenging time for everyone however Boldmere Infant and Junior School have quickly adapted to the rapid change of lockdowns, being an excellent support for children and parents. It is this level of excellence that I am committed to supporting and will endeavour to play a part in ensuring this high level of care continues to aid the children's education and overall holistic development.

Personal Statement: Stuart Pawson

I am a father of two, with my eldest currently in Boldmere's Nursery class and I am excited about him starting in the Reception class in September. Being elected as a parent governor would be a fantastic opportunity to support the school in his education and in delivering high standards of achievement for all the children at Boldmere.

I also believe I have the skills and attributes needed to be an outstanding governor, all of which I use on a daily basis advising pension schemes on their strategic objectives:

- Strategic thinking – providing clarity in the long-term vision and strategy, which is one of the most important decisions to get right.
- Strong technical and analytical skills – understanding and interpreting data is central to monitoring progress and identifying areas for improvement.
- Strong communication skills – I need to understand complex financial principles and communicate them in simple language that non-specialists understand.
- Working collaboratively – I'm used to working in boards and committees, contributing to discussions and providing a voice of challenge where needed.

Part of my interest in volunteering for the role would be to learn about how Boldmere use the resources available, and how the Governing Board assess the impact that management decisions have on the school's performance. As the husband of a primary school teacher, I have secondhand experience of teaching and primary education – so I also understand that there are a range of stakeholders involved in the school's performance.

Overall, I would love to be elected as a parent governor and contribute to the work of the Governing Board. Thank you for your time in reading my statement.

Personal Statement: Laura Shergold

I would like to be considered for the position of Parent Governor. I currently have a son in year 2 at Boldmere Infants and a daughter, 2.5 years, who I hope will be attending in the near future. Having lived in the area all my life, I have the local knowledge and links that come with this. Boldmere School is an outstanding school both on paper and in practise. I am passionate about involving myself in the workings of the school and feel I have the background, skills and enthusiasm to contribute in a positive way.

In terms of my skills and background, I graduated in 2002 from University of Wales, Swansea with a degree in Law. I worked as a Grant officer for the National Lottery Fund before working in Communications and Marketing for the same organisation. Through these roles I have an in-depth understanding of applying for funding, communications, social media and marketing.

After having my son, I retrained and worked as a Teaching Assistant in a local school. I worked on a 1:1 basis with SEN children, which has given me a deep empathy and understanding of the challenges faced by children and families with SEN. In addition to this, I was Clerk to the Governors at Mere Green School for 2 years (I helped the Governing Body achieve Chartermark status). The time spent as Clerk gave me a real insight into what makes a strong Governing Body alongside the legal, ethical and confidentiality issues involved.

I am now ready to channel my professional skills into making a difference in the education of not just my children but the school as a whole. I am grateful to Boldmere School for the opportunities it has given my son to develop and thrive and would relish the opportunity to support the school going forwards in the role as Parent Governor.

Personal Statement: Tonita Whittier

I believe that I would make a valuable parent governor because I am actively interested in the education, happiness and wellbeing of all students at Boldmere school.

I have been an active member of the PTA and was also a 'mystery parent' when the school requested guest reads. This was enjoyable and a pleasure to participate in.

I have a child who currently attends and his sibling is due to commence in September which means that my commitment to the schools progress, expectations and academic outcomes expands beyond any tenure of this post.

I am passionate about how children access education to support the schools vision; 'embrace learning and achieving their personal best...' so that children and teachers alike put this into practice on a daily basis.

In my day role (although currently on maternity leave) I am a senior leader within the NHS whereby I work alongside colleagues to improve services, challenge practices and create change which includes thinking creatively. This is demonstrated by me ensuring that I have the capacity to understand some of the challenges and benefits that striving to be an inclusive environment. I can also bring additional specialist understanding for children and young people with SEND – be that through offering additional home support, advocating and empowering parents or challenging the need for a child to be admitted into a hospital environment.

I am an effective communicator and believe that it is important to see all perspectives in order to understand and inform decision making. An example of this is where there could be a difference of opinion in a decision made it would be important to hear all sides as there may have been a misinterpretation of the information shared.

It would also be my ambition to be integral part in the work to collaborate and support change thinking in relation to anti racist practice and embed cultural appreciation to inspire the school community as a whole.

If I were made parent governor, it would be my absolute pleasure to work alongside other committed members who will actively strive to improve and support the school community to ensure the best learning outcomes for all.

Personal Statement: Roxy Willis

I am a parent of two children currently attending Boldmere Junior school. I have been associate governor for Boldmere School since May 2019 from which time I have also been a member of the Finance Committee. During this time, I have gained an invaluable insight into the School and gained first-hand experience of the running of the governing board and the fantastic contribution it makes.

As a member of the governing body, I am passionate about ensuring that the provision of education for each child is the best it can be and that the board provides the support necessary to the school to enable it to reach high standards of educational achievement that allows each child to reach their full potential. In addition, I believe it is important that school is more than a place of learning but also a community to be part of, which provides a safe, nurturing and supportive environment for development.

I am a qualified Chartered Accountant and have been a Finance Director in the construction industry for the last few years. My finance and business background helps to support the school governance when dealing with budgets and commercial decision making. It has also provided with skills that I believe would benefit the governing board. As part of my job, I am experienced in evaluating financials and understanding key metrics, thinking strategically and challenging management. I am keen if nominated as a parent governor to undertake further governor training to develop my skills and knowledge further.

I enjoy contributing to the school and helping to support Mr Glasgow, along with all of the teachers and governors who work hard to make Boldmere one of the best schools in the area.