

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: Natalie Justice-Dearn

I would like to express my interest in the vacant role of School governor for Boldmere Schools. I have two children that attend the school, one in juniors and one in infants so I have been involved with the school for 4 years now. By joining the Governing Board (GB), I hope to be able to support the school, staff, local community and in turn the children within the Boldmere family. I am naturally empathetic and am guided by my values, both personally and professionally. A GB and school such as Boldmere, that is guided by strong values and a clear vision undoubtedly nurtures the children to feel a sense of empowerment in developing their own strong set of values mirroring those of the teachers, care givers and peers around them. I believe everyone, in particular every child has the right to fairness, the right to be given the opportunities to thrive regardless of their family background, ethnicity, ability and socio-economic status. It is this belief that has led me through a career in developing sport participation opportunities and for the last 22 years I have been lucky enough to work for Sporting National Governing Bodies (The Football Association, British Cycling and British Triathlon). I am currently Chief Executive Officer for Rounders England where I have successfully led the organisation through a challenging few years due to the pandemic, a reduction in core grant funding and cultural change. Under my leadership the NGB now has a clear strategic vision for the next 10 years, an ambitious Board and team and increased levels of overall investment. This has been done in an open, collaborative way where I have used my ability to listen, think strategically and build effective relationships. I am a 'people' person with a desire to build trust with those around me, however I have a willingness to challenge appropriately. I believe the knowledge, skills and experiences gained professionally will transfer to help me add value to the GB. Since 2019 I have been part of the National School Sport and Activity Forum and have been at the strategic end of lobbying government and ministers on the School Sport and Physical Activity Plan. This helps me maintain a greater understanding of the challenges facing the education sector and in particular schools. Where, amongst many challenges, balancing the pressure for academic success and results with the need to protect the health and wellbeing of children and staff is becoming increasingly difficult on limited budgets. This is where developing a positive culture that is nurtured through the relationships and trust that develop between the children, their families and the staff is vital. I believe that this ethos can only be successfully developed when it is shaped by the schools leadership team and GB. Boldmere is a community school that works hard to develop trust and for this to continue to thrive I believe that the schools leaders, who know the families best, should have the independence to develop and deliver their vision. As a governor I would seek to understand and support this vision through robust discussion and, in particular, as a parent governor I would seek to ensure the children's learning journey is one of personal achievement, happiness and personal

development in a safe and fair environment. I am passionate about children and young people being given the opportunity to thrive and be the best they can be. My skills lie in being a strategic thinker with the ability to translate this into the 'real' world through being an approachable and empathic relationship builder. I believe learning never stops and would look forward to learning new skills through this opportunity. As a CEO I have wide ranging experience in, but not limited to, governance, budget management, HR, leadership and safeguarding. As a parent to 3 young children I have developed many skills including, but not limited to multi-tasking, operating under severe sleep deprivation, conflict management, negotiation, counting to 10, time management, laundry management, emotional intelligence, mind reading, stress management, hygiene and health and safety, to name a few! I hope that my experience would be beneficial to the journey that the school is on.

Personal Statement: Sarah Saed

I am a dentist who has specialised in orthodontics, currently working part-time which has given me flexibility in being more involved with my child's schooling. A huge aspect of my profession is working with children on a daily basis building a relationship of trust and understanding as I tend to see them every 6-8 weeks over a period of 2-3 years. During my spare time I attend local art lessons to fulfil my passion with painting and also play badminton. I love doing charitable volunteering work whenever possible and helping the community. I have spent many years in the past teaching children Maths and English and realise the difficulties of planning and working around a school curriculum. My child's future is of utmost importance on my list of priorities, therefore I would be delighted to be given the opportunity in making a difference in the education, of not just my son, but the school as a whole. I would hope my professional experience in attending and fronting meetings, coupled with my close interaction with children, would be of great benefit. I would hope to be an asset to the school, dedicating my time to be a proactive and effective school governor.

Personal Statement: Manpreet Singh Johal

I would like to apply for the role of parent governor to support my child's (Heidi, Seals class) experience at Boldmere Infants and Junior School.

As someone who has recently moved to the area (2019), I feel the Boldmere Federation Schools are widely respected and acknowledged not only in the immediate local area but also in the wider community. Since my daughter began reception, I have always been impressed with the attention-to-detail, commitment and communication from the teaching and support staff.

I am currently a teacher at Court Farm Primary School in Erdington and my ten years of teaching experience across both Key Stages would allow me to offer advice and support to improve the school, not only from my time teaching in Birmingham but in Newham, East London, too. I have taught children and supported families from diverse backgrounds

(including English as an Additional Language, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, Gifted and Talented children) which has helped me develop an extensive knowledge of children from a range of backgrounds.

My role would also allow for the review of school policies as this is an additional requirement of my role as a teacher whilst also supporting and suggesting different ways of carrying out performance management.

I can also offer as a volunteer as I currently volunteer at a junior parkrun event every Sunday at Cannon Hill Park. In addition to this, I am a qualified minibus driver so I could offer support with educational visits.

Overall, my child's (and future sibling to attend) happiness and progress at the school is highly significant to me and I would be proud to be part of this.

Personal Statement: Tonita Whittier

I am placing myself forward as nominee for parent governor.

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

I am a mum to three boys; one of whom is now in year 7, another son who is currently in year 1 and one in nursery. This means that my commitment to the school's progress, expectations and academic outcomes expands beyond any tenure of this post.

I am keen to see that the school continues to embrace and celebrates all children, further embeds a culture of belonging and value, ensures that the school community is sensitive to the needs of the children, educators and parents/carers and extends an open learning environment that creates opportunities for change, challenge and celebration.

As a senior manager within the NHS a core function of my role and work is about collaboration and system improvement. This includes working with multi agency partners to identify and understand where improvements can be made, think differently and be ambitious about transformation. I regularly work under competing demands whilst juggling homework and after school activities!

I am an advocate of parents/carers being able to voice and share their experiences to improve and contribute to the school environment and I would be keen to ensure that these perspectives are fed into the school. I have also supported PTA activities/events which I have enjoyed being involved in.

I believe that I have excellent skills in listening, showing compassion and a desire to understand the views of others. I see the role of parent governor as a critical friend to encourage, seek clarity and support the school but who will also reflect and provide honest and at times, difficult to hear, feedback to the leadership and teaching body of the school to excel the vision and strategic direction.

It would be my pleasure to be a parent governor working alongside committed members who want to see the school thrive in celebrating difference, appreciating, and gaining knowledge about different cultures and ethnicities in a variety of ways. I am keen to learn about and improve how we as parents can make the school, and its community, an

environment that not only motivates academic excellence but develops further the extent to which it provides a fun, safe and nurturing place for our children to thrive emotionally, culturally and physically and provide the best learning environment for our children now and for the future.