



Monkton Church of England Primary School

Monkton Street, Monkton,

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Executive Headteacher: Mr P McCarthy

Head of School: Mr C Marston

3rd September 2026

Parent Governor Elections

Hello to all our Parents and Carers and welcome back to the start of the new academic year.

We start the new year for the first time as an academy, and I am excited by prospect for the year ahead. The LGB (Local Governing Body) will still sit across both Minster and Monkton schools as it did when we were Federated and as promised the structure and set-up of both schools remains the same. As you will know from my correspondence before the summer, we are looking for an additional parent representative to sit on the LGB. I was overwhelmed with the response to this as we have struggled to recruit in the past. I had the pleasure of meeting with all of the candidates below and outlining what the role would entail. It was also lovely to hear what they could offer back in skills and expertise!

The decision of who is elected is not down to me and you as parents need to decide who you would like to perform this role – very tough choice!

Each parent/carers in the family is eligible to vote **ONCE** for the person that they would like to be elected. To ensure that this is fair, we are collecting the details of the voters to make sure that the one vote rule is applied. Any forms that are not completed in full, will not count as a vote.

The deadline for voting is **Friday 18th September at 3:15pm.**

Please use the following link to vote: [Parent Governor Election Form – Fill in form](#)

Remember only votes from Parents and Carers with children currently in our school will count and that you have ONE vote per parent.

I will inform you of the outcome in the week that follows.

Many thanks for your time in considering the best candidate for the role and also for voting.

Kind regards

Paul McCarthy

Executive Headteacher – Minster and Monkton CEP Partnership



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Parent Governor Pen Pictures

Luke Evans

My name is Luke, and I am putting myself forward to serve as a Parent Governor because I am deeply committed to supporting our school community and ensuring every child has the opportunity to thrive. As a parent with a child at the school, I see first-hand the dedication of staff and the importance of strong, positive partnerships between home and school. Professionally, I am a qualified Headteacher with extensive experience in Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), safeguarding, curriculum development and school leadership. I currently serve on the Senior Leadership Team of a successful special school and hold the National Professional Qualification in Headship (NPQH). Alongside my education career, I also serve as a Kent County Councillor, where I work closely with families, schools and community organisations. These roles have strengthened my understanding of governance, accountability and the importance of clear, supportive communication. As a Parent Governor, my focus would be on listening to families, championing inclusion, and supporting the school's vision for high-quality education. I believe strongly in creating environments where children feel safe, valued and inspired to learn. I also understand the pressures schools face and the importance of thoughtful, balanced decision-making. I would bring energy, integrity and a genuine commitment to working collaboratively with staff, governors and parents. Most importantly, I care deeply about the wellbeing and success of all children at the school, including my own daughter, and would be proud to contribute to its continued growth. Thank you for considering my nomination.

Cassie Higgleton

I would love the opportunity to contribute to my daughter's school community as a governor. My husband and I recently relocated to the Minster area from Essex with our two children, and as our daughter has just started Reception, becoming part of the governing body feels like a meaningful way to support the school while giving back to a community that is now so important to our family. I have worked in the education sector for almost 15 years and currently serve as Head of Sales and a senior leader for an education technology company supporting over 18,000 schools across the UK. Through my role, I work with schools, trusts, and local authorities, helping them use technology to improve outcomes and operations. This has given me strong leadership, strategic planning, project management, and data analysis skills, alongside a deep understanding of the opportunities and challenges facing schools today. Before moving into EdTech, I began my career as a teacher in South Korea and have also worked within education systems in the UAE. These experiences broadened my perspective on education, inclusion, and creating positive learning environments for children from diverse backgrounds. I am passionate about collaboration, continuous improvement, and supporting others to succeed. As a governor, I would bring a strategic mindset, constructive challenge, and a genuine commitment to helping the school continue to thrive. Above all, I am motivated by a desire to give back and would be honoured to contribute my experience, enthusiasm, and dedication to supporting the best possible outcomes for all pupils.

Matthew Johnson

I am applying to become a Parent Governor because this school has been a central part of my family's life for many years, and I want to give something back. My son joined in 2018, and my daughter is now moving into Year 4, so I've seen the school support both through different stages of their education. That long connection has given me a genuine appreciation of the staff, the community, and the values that shape the school every day.

As a tech product manager at Tesco, I spend my time understanding how people use systems, listening to what isn't working, and finding practical ways to improve things. It's a role built on communication, problem-solving and



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making sure processes help the people they're meant to serve. Before that, I worked in several Tesco stores across Thanet, which taught me how important it is to listen to different perspectives and how much can be achieved when people work together.

I want to bring those skills and experiences into the governor role. My aim isn't to change the school's direction — it's to support it by helping identify gaps, strengthening communication, and finding opportunities to make things run even more smoothly for pupils, parents and staff. I want to play an active part in helping it continue to thrive.

Thank you

Catherine Arnell

I would be delighted to become an EKC Parent Governor, applying my experience over the past 10-years as a parent of two children who have attended Monkton CE Primary. I care deeply about ensuring that the voices, experiences and needs of pupils and families are heard and represented. I believe I could bring an important perspective and help ensure our school community has a strong voice in decisions affecting our children's education and school business. Throughout my children's time at Monkton, I have been actively involved in all school life, helping with PTA events, class visits, and coordinating the school's Walking Bus until it stopped during lockdown. These experiences have given me a genuine connection with the school community and an understanding of the value of parents, staff and volunteers working together. Professionally, I am the founder and director of Expression Arts CIC, I have over 25-years' experience in community engagement, creative facilitation, partnership working, securing funding and managing projects which bring people together. I am also an active local Scout Leader for 1stMinster, giving me experience of supporting local children creating opportunities where every child can thrive, develop confidence and feel included. I would be proud to take on the role of Parent Governor. I would bring enthusiasm, commitment, creativity and a willingness to listen, ask thoughtful questions and consider different perspectives. Most importantly, I would be committed to representing parents fairly and constructively, always keeping the wellbeing, education and future opportunities of all pupils at the heart of decision-making.

Louise Edwards

I am able to draw on a range of experience relevant to the Parent Governor role.

Firstly, I have enjoyed my role as chair of the board of trustees at Monkton Under 5s nursery for the past two years. In this role I am required to work in collaboration with others to look with objectivity at the running of the setting and support the management team in problem solving.

As a self-employed sports coach I have good communication skills and an understanding of financial processes. In the course of my work I have worked in association with both schools and colleges to deliver and assess vocational learning courses including work-based diplomas, BTECS and skills for working life.



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Most importantly I am a parent with a passion for children's education and well-being and a great admiration for the ethos of Monkton school. I have two children in the school at the very beginning of their education, so I am looking forward to a long period of involvement.