



## CANDIDATES PERSONAL STATEMENTS (in alphabetical order)

Dr John Burns

I am applying for the position of school governor primarily as I believe I could contribute strongly to the school, especially in the promotion of STEM. I am passionate that all children at WFJS should be supported to achieve their maximum, especially in areas that they excel. As a parent of a year 5 child, I feel I have gained the experience to understand what is working and what is not for both myself and other parents. In particular in the area of homework, which I believe should be a natural continuation of what is taught in the lesson and something children feel empowered to complete independently.

The experience I would bring to the role includes a strong background in science and engineering with degrees mathematics and chemical engineering. My career, which started in chemical engineering research at Newcastle University, has taken me on a journey through several technology spin-out companies where I have held senior roles including Head of Research and Development and Director of Process Engineering.

My current role at the National Physical Laboratory (NPL) in Teddington is one focused on the dissemination of NPL's capabilities across UK industry. NPL contributes to world leading science and is a strong supporter of STEM. This gives me access to a wealth of resources and examples of science and engineering at work that can inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers.

Maliha Carey

It would be a privilege to serve as a governor at WFJS contributing to the school's vision of being an environment where every child thrives.

My daughter joins Year 3 in September, with her younger sister following in 2027. Both have attended WFJS since nursery, giving me a long-term vested interest in the success of the school and its community.

Governors play a crucial role in shaping the school's direction, scrutinising outcomes and ensuring effective use of financial resources. My professional and voluntary experience closely align with these responsibilities.

I qualified as a solicitor in the City with a global US law firm and spent fourteen years advising companies on a broad range of corporate, commercial and regulatory matters. I can bring this professional experience to my role as a governor.

For the past four years I have chaired the WFIS PTA, partnering with school leadership, staff and parents to raise ~£20–25k profit annually. I lead the PTA with the vision of fostering a strong community spirit by organising fun events and activities for both children and parents. These efforts raise much-needed funds to enrich the children's learning experiences.



I now wish to bring this blend of professionalism, legal experience, leadership and community spirit to the WFJS Governing Body. I will of course undertake any training necessary to fulfil this role.

By working constructively with fellow governors and the senior leadership team, I will help develop strategy, strengthen accountability and maximise resources to achieve the school's vision and ambitions.

Emma Dewar

I am writing to express my interest in becoming a parent governor at Wallace Fields Junior School. As a parent of a child in Year 3 I am passionate about supporting the school's work and contributing to its continued success for years to come for all pupils.

Professionally, I work as a self-employed legal assistant in conveyancing. This has developed my skills in organisation, attention to detail, problem-solving, and communication — all of which I believe are valuable in a governance role. My self-employment gives flexibility with my time, allowing me to commit fully to governor responsibilities and to be available for meetings and school events.

I previously served as chair of the PTA for two years at my son's former school where I worked closely with staff, parents, and the wider community to raise funds, organise events, and strengthen links between home and school. This experience gave me insight into the importance of collaboration and effective communication in supporting a school's aims and fostering a positive, inclusive environment.

I am keen to support Wallace Fields Junior School in upholding high educational standards, promoting the wellbeing of all pupils, and ensuring that every child is given the opportunity to thrive. I would welcome the opportunity to represent parents' views and to work constructively with the leadership team and fellow governors to support the school's continued growth

Thank you for considering my application.

Elisha Jones

I work as a Digital Experience Manager for a bank, where I'm part of a team that designs and builds new features to improve our online services. A key part of my role is ensuring our services are accessible and inclusive for everyone, while also meeting important regulatory standards. Outside of work, I practise and teach Tai Chi, helping people look after their health and well-being through this moving meditation. Through both my work and hobbies, I've developed skills in strategic thinking, communication, teamwork, and creative problem-solving.



I have a child in Year 4 and another at the Infants school. I'm applying to become a governor because I care deeply about the role education plays in helping children grow into confident, resilient individuals, ready to thrive in an ever-changing world.

I'm particularly interested in supporting diversity and inclusion, and in promoting the importance of well-being as part of children's learning. I also take a keen interest in the growing role of digital technology, AI and social media in children's lives. I believe it's vital that we, as parents and educators, understand these influences and help guide children to use them safely and positively.

As a governor, I'd bring an empathetic outlook, creative thinking, and a genuine commitment to supporting the school's continued growth. I'd love the opportunity to get more involved with the school community and help it remain an inclusive, supportive, and forward-looking place for all our children.

#### Senthooran (Sen) Selvarajah

As an oncology project management leader with a PhD in Immunology at MSD, I am eager to contribute to the governance of Wallace Fields Junior School, especially as a parent of Rihan, who is in Year 4, and my daughter, who will be starting at the school this September. The importance of education and fostering a happy, supportive school environment is not lost on me; I believe that every child deserves the best possible start in their educational journey.

My extensive experience in overseeing complex, cross-functional teams at MSD has equipped me with the strategic planning and operational management skills essential for effective governance. I have a proven track record of driving initiatives that enhance performance and accountability, aligning closely with the core responsibilities of a governor.

I am committed to ensuring clarity of vision and strategic direction, having successfully developed operational frameworks that optimize resource allocation and foster collaboration among diverse stakeholders. My leadership in managing budgets and overseeing financial performance will support the school's mission to utilize resources effectively for the benefit of all students.

I am dedicated to fostering an inclusive environment where the voices of parents, pupils, and staff are heard. I look forward to working closely with the headteacher and senior leaders to monitor school performance and implement strategies that prepare our children for their future. I believe my background and passion for education will enable me to make a meaningful contribution to the governing body.