

# In Partnership to Educate, Nurture & Empower

Bishop Young C of E Academy

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Principal: Ms Rachael Lacey-Cole

10<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

I wrote to you on 26<sup>th</sup> January to invite nominations for the two parent governor vacancies.

As we have more candidates than vacancies, we must now hold a ballot. You may vote for up to two of the candidates.

You should:

- Read the candidate statements attached to this letter
- Access the online ballot form to vote for your preferred candidate here: <https://form.jotform.com/260392983725366>
- You will be required to submit your full name, postcode, the name(s) of your child(ren), and the email address you have on record with the school so your eligibility to vote can be checked against the voting register. Following verification by an independent member of the Trust's Governance Team, these details will be removed prior to the count to preserve anonymity.
- Ensure you submit your vote by 25<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Alternatively, you can obtain a paper ballot paper and two envelopes from the school office. You should then:

- Mark an X alongside the candidate names you wish to vote for. **Do not** mark the ballot paper in any other way
- Insert the completed ballot paper into an unmarked envelope and seal it
- Insert the unmarked envelope containing the ballot paper into the second envelope, mark it with your full name and seal it
- Return your ballot paper to the school office by 25<sup>th</sup> February 2026

If you have any queries about this process, please contact the Trust's Governance Team by email to [governance@abbeytrust.org](mailto:governance@abbeytrust.org).

Yours sincerely,



Ms E Kempthorne  
Head of School



Co-CEOs: Mrs Helen Pratten & Ms Catherine Garrett

Abbey Multi Academy Trust, The Moyes Centre, Bishops Way, Seacroft, Leeds, LS14 6NU  
Registered Company Number: 07705552



## CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

*Alphabetical by surname*

### Candidate 1: Lindsey Foster

As a parent of children at the school, I am keen to stand as a parent governor so that I can give something back to a community that plays such an important role in my children's life. I care deeply about young people's education and wellbeing and want to support the school in helping every student feel safe, valued, and encouraged to achieve their best.

I understand that the secondary school years can be both exciting and challenging. From my experience as a parent, I recognise the importance of strong teaching alongside effective pastoral support, particularly in relation to mental wellbeing, behaviour, and inclusion. I believe that when students feel supported and listened to, they are more able to engage positively with their learning and reach their potential.

As a parent governor, I would aim to represent the views of parents while always keeping the needs of all students at the centre of decision-making. I am a good listener, thoughtful in my approach, and willing to ask constructive questions where appropriate. I am organised, reliable, and committed to giving the time needed to fulfil the role effectively. I am keen to learn more about school governance, safeguarding, and educational priorities, and I welcome opportunities to develop my skills further.

In the past I have been part of a successful Parent Champion programme and represented East Leeds at meetings within The House of Commons and The House of Lords. I have worked for a National Community Organising Charity helping to build Community Leaders. My current role is working with Carers, providing support to help them navigate their way through Inpatient and Community Mental Health Services whilst providing a calming and empathic nature.

I would be proud to serve as a parent governor and to support the school in providing the best possible outcomes for all its students. I feel it's important to be inspiring and to be the best role model for my children. I feel it's important to show you are engaged in the community around you.

### Candidate 2: Olaniyi Gbolahan

I am putting myself forward as a parent governor because I care deeply about children receiving an excellent education rooted in strong values. I want every pupil at Bishop Young Academy to be academically confident, morally grounded and fully equipped to thrive and ready to excel in a fast-changing world without losing their sense of right and wrong.

As a parent, I understand the hopes and concerns families have for their children. I would bring this parental perspective to the governing body in a balanced and thoughtful way, always acting in the best interests of the whole school community rather than any individual child or issue. I recognise that the role of a parent governor is strategic, not operational, and I am committed to supporting and constructively challenging school leaders to drive continuous improvement.

I am particularly interested in how the school prepares pupils to be resilient, adaptable and confident learners while maintaining high standards of behaviour, safeguarding and wellbeing. I believe a



strong moral framework alongside academic excellence helps young people make good choices and flourish both in school and beyond.

I am used to working collaboratively, asking the right questions and holding leaders to account with integrity and respect. I would take my responsibilities seriously, including contributing to setting the school's vision, monitoring outcomes and ensuring policies are followed and effective.

It would be a privilege to serve as a parent governor and to contribute my time, experience and commitment to helping Bishop Young Academy continue to grow as a school where every child can succeed and make the school, their parents or guardians and their community proud.

### **Candidate 3: Kerry Kelso**

I am eager to contribute to our school's continued success and ensure that every child has the opportunity to thrive. With a child currently in year 7 I have a direct interest in the school's performance and a deep commitment to its values.

I have experienced sitting on a governing body for school and I believe these skills will allow me to provide constructive challenge to the leadership team while supporting the school's long-term goals. My priority is to act as a bridge between parents and the governing body, ensuring that the diverse voices of our parent community are heard and considered in key decisions.

I am a firm believer in transparency, inclusivity and high educational standards. If elected, I will dedicate the necessary time to attend meetings, visit the school, and undergo training to be an effective advocate for all students. I am approachable, objective and ready to work collaboratively to ensure our school remains a safe, ambitious and inspiring environment for our children. It would be an honour to serve our school community.

### **Candidate 4: Kelly Miller**

I am keen to contribute my time, skills, and commitment to supporting the school's leadership and ensuring the best possible outcomes for all pupils. I have a strong interest in education and believe effective governance plays a vital role in a school's success. I am motivated by the opportunity to support the school's vision and values, provide constructive challenge where appropriate, and help ensure that decisions are made in the best interests of pupils and the wider school community.

Through my professional and personal experience, I have developed skills that I believe would be valuable to the governing body, including clear communication, teamwork, strategic thinking, and the ability to analyse information and ask thoughtful questions. I am reliable, open-minded, and able to work collaboratively while maintaining confidentiality.

I understand that the role of a governor requires commitment, responsibility, and a willingness to learn. I am prepared to attend meetings, undertake training, and fully engage with the duties of the role. I would welcome the opportunity to contribute to the continued development and success of Bishop Young Academy.