



St Chad's Church of England Primary School

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West Park
Leeds
LS16 5QR

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office@stchadsprimary.net

Headteacher: Mrs Gina Marsland

Tuesday 3rd March 2026

Dear parent(s)/carer(s),

I wrote to you on Friday 13th February to invite nominations for the vacancy for a parent governor.

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

You should:

- Read the three candidate statements attached to this letter
- Access the online ballot form to vote for your preferred candidate here:
<https://form.jotform.com/260601771561352>
- 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 **00:59 on Friday 13th March**

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

- Mark an X alongside the candidate's name 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 **12:00 on Friday 13 March**

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

Yours sincerely,

Ian Renard
Chair of Governors



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 1: Kyle Dickerson

Having 3 children at St Chads CofE Primary School I am invested in making their educational experience both academically rewarding and enjoyable. I am nominating myself as I believe I will contribute practical, strategic and community-focused leadership. Professionally, I am a director level strategic advisor at KPMG, with over a decade of experience I have created and implemented digital and business strategies with executive level teams. That experience has given me a strong track record in governance, programme delivery, financial oversight, risk management and stakeholder engagement. I will bring to the governing body a clear focus on improving outcomes for all pupils through evidence-led decision making, effective use of data and careful prioritisation of resources. I am passionate about inclusion, pupil wellbeing and ensuring that the curriculum prepares children for a rapidly changing world. I believe my skills in translating complex issues into practical plans, managing change sensitively and building collaborative relationships will support the headteacher and staff while representing parents' views. As a parent I am deeply invested in the school community, where I am actively involved at St Chads Church helping run the Sparklers Sunday school. My intention in role will be to listen, consult widely and act with transparency and integrity. I will make myself available to attend meetings, contribute to committees and support school initiatives that strengthen learning, safety and community links. I would be honoured to serve as a parent governor and to work with governors, staff and families to help every child thrive.

Candidate 2: Rebecca Kerrigan

I am applying for the role of Parent Governor within the Abbey Multi Academy Trust because I strongly believe in the vital role schools play in shaping children's lives. As a parent of a child at St Chad's C of E Primary School, I am invested in ensuring that every pupil is supported, valued and given a real opportunity to thrive. I work for Safe Families and Home for Good, a charity that supports families within the community. Although my role is primarily operational, working within this organisation gives me a clear understanding of how strong systems, good decision making and effective governance are essential in enabling those on the front line to deliver meaningful support. Through this work, I regularly get to see the real impact that dedicated professionals have on children and families, and how important it is to do right by those we serve. As a Christian, my faith is central to my values and aligns closely with the ethos of the Abbey Multi Academy Trust. I believe in treating others with compassion and dignity, encouraging personal development, and fostering a strong sense of belonging and purpose within a community. In my people focused role, I work collaboratively, listen carefully, show care and compassion to others and remain committed to positive outcomes. I believe these skills would enable me to contribute effectively as a Parent Governor, working hard to support the school, challenge constructively where appropriate, and always act in the best interests of the children.



Candidate 3: Sally Van Der Gucht

Since my son joined St Chad's in 2021, I've seen first-hand the positive impact this school has on its pupils. I'm standing as a parent governor because I want to contribute meaningfully to the continued success and development of our school community. Throughout my career, I've specialised in leading transformational change, managing complex stakeholders, and delivering measurable results. At Barclays, I lead global campaigns, design educational programmes, and collaborate with diverse teams to strengthen organisational resilience. Previously, I managed change portfolios, led teams, and championed continuous improvement initiatives. I believe my professional background aligns well with the responsibilities of school governance: - I bring experience in strategic planning and oversight, including managing complex initiatives and ensuring effective governance and risk management. - I'm confident engaging senior leaders, facilitating decision-making across diverse groups, and communicating clearly, including during critical situations. - I am passionate about inclusive, people-focused leadership and creating environments where individuals feel supported to thrive. - I also approach challenges with curiosity and creativity, always seeking to improve processes and outcomes. Governors play a vital role as "critical friends," offering support while holding leadership to account for educational performance and pupil wellbeing. I am prepared to ask thoughtful, constructive questions in the best interests of all children. I am fully committed to the required training, meetings, and time needed to understand the school's priorities and challenges. As a long-standing member of the community, I am invested in ensuring every child can reach their full potential in a safe, nurturing, and high-quality learning environment.