

Parent Governor – Personal Statements

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Alison Guthrie–Wrenn

Since my child entered the Link School I have been incredibly impressed with the care he has received, and the progress he has been able to make. My child, who is 8 and has additional needs, entered the school in a state of crisis and within a very short space of time he was enjoying his school life again. I am extremely keen to give something back to the school who have given so much to my child, hence my application to be a parent governor.

In terms of my skills and background, I am a senior leader with the Ministry of Justice, sharing my time between my office in the North East and London. I am also a co-opted Governor, and vice chair of the governing body, in another Sunderland academy school. I have a deep understanding of the needs of busy working parents in ensuring the welfare of their children in their academic setting and understand the challenges other parents and children with additional needs can face on a day to day basis. I feel that my professional skills, combined with my passion for making a difference to the lives of children such as mine, who need particular care and attention, would make me an excellent choice for the role of parent governor.

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Faye Taylor

I am a qualified Nursery Nurse since 2007; I have a CACHE level 3 diploma in childcare and education.

During my spare time I love spending time with my three children making lots of memories and doing different activities as a family.

I am currently doing volunteer work within the Key Stage One Nurture Group since 2013. I also support the parent group and with fundraising. I did the Boxing Day dip in 2018 to raise funds. I also volunteer at North View Academy, since February 2019, in which both provisions have given me lots of knowledge and information about how these settings are run and managed.

I have had first-hand experience of the nurture group setting from my son who has accessed the provision from 2013-2017. He attended playgroup when in Nursery, then he went on to part time provision, then when he was permanently excluded from mainstream my son went onto the full-time provision. I also have experience of the transition process from Nurture Group to school, whether it is mainstream or special educational needs setting and have realised the difficulties in running and planning around a demanding school curriculum.

Currently I am parent governor for both KS1PRU Management Committee as well as North View Academy. I have gained this experience voluntarily since 2018. I have confidently offered views and opinions, gathered from other parents, staff and children to help the lead these schools forward. My main priority is making sure our children have a safe and secure environment to learn in and those they are going to thrive in the setting of the link school and are have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

My children's future is of the utmost importance to me and these are my priorities. Therefore I would be delighted to be given the opportunity in also making a difference in the education of not just my children but to the school as a whole.

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Kalliopi Whiteley

Dear Parent,

I am a Pharmacist by degree and I have been working as an academic member of staff at the University of Sunderland since 2004, teaching on the Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences programmes at undergraduate and postgraduate level. I also have a Postgraduate Diploma in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education ie I'm familiar with the teaching and learning theories and how they can be adapted during curriculum development. My current role is Associate Professor (Research). I am experienced with curriculum development for STEM-related courses at the University and I have acted as member and/or chair of External Evaluation Committees for such HE programmes.

My son (Spiro Whiteley) was accepted recently at the Link School after several exhausting months of recurrent exclusions at his mainstream school. When the Link School was suggested as an option, I was hesitant due to preconceived ideas about PRU schools. However, once I visited and started researching about it, I realised that the staff are experienced teachers with the ability to nurture children's behaviours, improve attitudes and life skills, giving a holistic approach to education. Spiro has adapted very well at the Link School and he enjoys the variety of activities it offers.

As a Parent Governor, I would like to learn more about the Link School's approaches, the challenges, provide feedback with curriculum development & evaluation when required, and help improve its perception among the local community. Considering that my son has adapted so well, it may be likely that several of its educational approaches could set an example and be beneficial in mainstream schools.