



BENSHAM MANOR School

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Headteacher : Mrs Fiona Robinson MA NPQH

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Kirstie Byrne B.Ed (Hons) NPQH

9/10/2020

Dear Parents and carers,

Parent Elections

I have received nominations from **two parents** who are willing to become school governors. I hope you will vote in the election to select **one new parent governor**. The new governor will serve for four years.

I enclose a ballot paper, personal statements from the candidates and an envelope for you to return your ballot paper. Please read the personal statements carefully and bearing in mind the role of the school governor as indicated below:

The role of a school governor is extremely important and many essential decisions about this school are taken by our Governing Board. School Governors work together with the school leadership team to continually improve the education for every child at our school. Our school governors have 3 core functions. They:

1. Ensure the clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction of our school;
2. Hold the head teacher to account for the educational performance of our school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff; and
3. Oversee the financial performance of our school and make sure its money is well spent.

Please vote for one **governor** by writing an 'X' next to their name. You have **one** vote in total even if you have more than one child at the school.

Please return your ballot form to the school by **10.00am** on **15/10/2020**. You can either:

- Bring it to the school at either 8.25am or 2.40pm and post it in the ballot box in located in reception (please maintain social distancing)
- Post it to the school in the envelope provided; or
- Arrange for your child to bring it to school and post it in the ballot box.

Votes will be counted on **the 15/10/2020** and the result will be announced as soon as possible.

I hope you will decide to vote as the governing board is very important in the decision making of the school.

Yours sincerely

Fiona Robinson

Headteacher

Personal Statements

1. Personal Statement for Diane Hamilton-Harris

I am a hard-working, self-motivated, mother of one and a professional business owner who is committed to ensuring that the strategic direction of Bensham Manor School is for the benefit of the pupils of the school, and for ensuring that staff performance is a key priority.

I am standing for election as a Parent Governor because I feel strongly that I have the necessary competencies, qualities and attributes to not only carry out the functions of governorship to a high standard, but also to support the Governing Board to move forward positively and innovatively, especially as we navigate our way through these times with the coronavirus pandemic.

The professional experiences I have gained during my working life to date will be of benefit to the Governing Board. For example, I understand the importance of building relationships with key stakeholders and collaborating in a warm and professional style. In addition to being a business owner, I have had the privilege of serving as a member nominated director of a large company pension scheme. Part of this role included being a member of the Investment Committee and reviewing as well as challenging the performance of the assets of the pension scheme.

I believe that given the opportunity to stand for Parent Governor, my strong work values, ethics and professional standards will benefit the school and I will work extremely hard to support the Governing Board in carrying out the strategic direction of the school.

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2. Personal Statement for Matt Sowrey Lewin

I would like to be a Parent Governor at Bensham Manor as I am very grateful for all that the school has done for my daughter, Tilly, and I welcome this opportunity to give something back to the school.

I was previously a Parent Governor at Red Gates special school for seven years, including two years as Vice-Chair, where I gained extensive experience in supporting the Board to make decisions around such issues as setting the vision and direction for the school, performance management of staff, school improvements, and budget management. I was also the parent governor responsible for safeguarding.

I bring over 20 years of experience as a senior manager in the Civil Service, which has equipped me with a wide range of management, leadership and problem-solving skills which I would like to use to support the Board, particularly in these extraordinarily challenging times.

Ballot paper - Please return by 10am on 15/10/20

Please mark your vote with an X in the appropriate box

Vote for **(1)** candidate

Diane Hamilton-Harris

Matt Sowrey Lewin

If you make a mistake please go to the office, hand in your spoilt paper and ask for another ballot paper.

Any comments or unclear votes at the count will disqualify your vote, as the paper will be deemed spoilt.

