

NEWINGTON GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

MATTHIAS ROAD, LONDON N16 8NP

020 7254 3092



Potential Parent Governor Statements June 2016

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Potential Governor Ballot

Dear Parent

I am writing to advise you that there were more nominations than vacancies for the recently advertised post of parent school governor.

Therefore a ballot will take place.

Please read through the enclosed 6 statements from each candidate to make an informed decision.

Newington Green Primary has 3 Governor vacancies so each parent can vote for 3 candidates.

You have until Friday 8th July 09:10am to complete and return your ballot paper.

MICHELLE HEDGES

I have always worked within the care sector (nursing, child care, social work) these jobs mean that I have always worked directly with people, I've learnt the value of being kind and direct, being held accountable for my decision making, delivering difficult news and challenging respectfully and clearly, always ensuring to work as part of a team and help maintain the dignity of others. I think these skills would help me be an approachable parent governor, and parents would be more able to talk about their views and wishes.

Many years ago I studied anthropology (study of people and how we live and evolved) and spent a few years travelling around India, South America and Australia and many parts of Europe and this has really strengthened my love of different cultures. Now after 15 years working within inner London, I understand how important this has been to help me be more culturally sensitive and promote equal opportunities. I believe it is vital that every child has the opportunity to achieve a good education and every parent should be given the opportunity to best support their child's education whether this concerns money or language or abilities, if I was a parent governor, this would be my specific focus and skill set that I would bring to the role.

My eldest child is now in year one and I have so enjoyed getting involved with school trips, assemblies, fund raising PTA, chatting to other parents and the teachers, I've learnt what a positive experience the early school years can be, and how much of a potential influence it has upon the development of our children and that we as parents and teachers must ensure we get it right for them, because if they are not comfortable, then they will not learn as well. As a school Newington Green have retained the essential ingredient of simply 'having heart', the teachers and staff are very approachable and show a lot of warmth to the children and appear to listen to the parents, I would like to help as a parent governor to ensure that these relationships continue to thrive.

VASSILIS MONASTIRIOTIS

I have two kids at Newington Green, one of who is graduating this year. I have served as Parent Governor since 2013 and have been member of the Governing Body's Curriculum and Standards Committee during this period. My term in service has coincided with some major developments for the school: the refurbishment of its buildings, the reconstitution of its Governing Body, the opening of the 2-year-olds provision, the adoption of the new assessment scheme ('assessment without levels') and a revised model of the annual School Improvement Plan, and the establishment of an in-house afterschool provision.

As Parent Governor I have been involved in the decision-making for all of these developments. In all, I have consciously and actively taken a role as a "critical friend" to the school, in line with the National Guidelines – challenging decisions that could be affecting adversely our pupils' learning and/or their families (e.g., with regard to financial costs or discontinuation of services) but also supporting the School, and its collective decisions, firmly, constructively and – I believe – effectively. Among others, I was instrumental in influencing the School's decision to re-launch its offering of afterschool Clubs in 2014 – an initiative which has been very successful and popular with pupils (with over half a dozen Clubs offering around 180 places for activities in sports, crafts and music in 2015/16).

Besides my experience and contributions as Parent Governor, in my professional life (Associate Professor at a London University) I have gained long experience in a range of areas relevant to the post: from chairing and participating in various committees to curriculum development, and from leadership and staff mentoring to liaising with external bodies and sponsors. I have also received extensive training in relevant areas such as Health & Safety, Equity & Diversity, Teaching & Learning, and others.

I wish to be considered for a new term as Parent Governor because I wish to continue contributing to the governance and future development of the school. My original ambition in joining the school's GB was to contribute in improving the school's capacity to provide an inclusive and rounded education to all of its pupils (improving standards while reducing disparities in attainment across pupils); and strengthen the school's reputation and appeal within its immediate community (including with respect to parents of prospective pupils) and more widely. The same motivations drive my decision today, to apply for this post.

AMBER MUNIR

I am a mother of four – ranging from toddler to teen. My son passed year six from Newington Green Primary school in 2015, daughter is in Year One and next daughter is going to join in next year, which indicates a long lasting commitment with the school. Just like every other parent at Newington Green Primary School, I want the very best for my children. I want them to be happy, confident and become the very best they can be. As parents we need to support the school but when necessary we should also put the school under tough scrutiny. I am not afraid to ask difficult questions and I am used to speaking out and up for what is most important. Frankly there is nothing more important than our children.

I am a Chartered Accountant and certainly capable to support financial governance which is certainly a very useful and important skill for the Governing body. I have deep interest in all aspects of Education. I have worked in education sector in various capacities and home schooled my children successfully for a year when I was mother at home after having my baby.

As a family we have lived in a wide range of differing areas and have developed a broad experience of facilities provided for children, both Government and privately funded, and I would bring this knowledge to the School Governing Body.

I believe that parent governors have a special role, and should always try to assess issues and decisions from the point of view of parents/carers and families. This is not the same as representing individual parent's points of view – it is about making sure that parent/carer perspectives (however diverse) are always considered.

I believe that clear direction and leadership are key to an effective school governing body and therefore a successful school. I have a proven track record of managing teams and driving through change in some challenging times and believe that this experience would be of value to the Governing Body and the school alike.

I'm always happy to have a chat so if you see me around and want to ask me anything prior to the election, feel free.

CARA PHILLIP

My Name is Cara Phillip I became a parent governor on 6th July 2012 and I am standing for re-election.

The reason I became a parent governor was to learn more about how the school is run and to support the staff and the children.

I wanted to have a better understanding and input on the curriculum, policies, school finances and input on anything that could affect the running of the school, children and the parents.

My time as a parent governor has ensured that I have in depth and understanding of the statutory and strategic responsibilities that comes with being a parent governor. This I have learned during my time of being a parent governor by attending the whole day governor's meeting that is held twice a year in the school to give training and updates.

I am also committed to undertaking training to be able to be the best parent governor for Newington Green School. I take my role of being a parent governor and representing the school very passionately and would always try to look at any an issue that arrive at both points of view.

I have an NVQ Level 3 in child Care which gives me the understanding of the requirement of EYFS and education of children. I currently am volunteering at girl guarding.

During my time of being a parent governor I have support the schools aims to become an outstanding school. I have also worked on the following

1. Consultation of parents views of the school. Looking at the results and finding anything that could be improved or changed.
2. Redevelopment of the School giving feedback on the plans.
3. Moving the Breakfast and After School Club back in house to Newington Green School. I am currently on a working group to make sure that all parents and children are happy with the new services and that they are run well.

This is just a few things that I have done during my time.

I plan to be active member of the governing body by

1. Supporting Breakfast and After School Club.
2. To support the school aims to become an outstanding school.
3. Make sure the school is on target and to ask the right question.

I have really enjoyed my role as a parent governor and will be happy to be re-elected.

PHIL STEVENS

My name is Phil Stevens, I am a father of seven. Three of my children attend Newington Green Primary School and my granddaughter has just started at the amazing new two year old provision the school now offers.

I would welcome the opportunity to join the existing dedicated governors to support the school in its vision to become an OFSTED recognised outstanding school. I am confident that I can contribute many of the relevant skills required and have the experience needed to support the school in achieving outstanding, whilst ensuring that the school maintains its three key values:

- Aiming high: There is no ceiling on what can be achieved
- Doing our best: There are no excuses for not doing your best
- Caring for each other: We are honest and care about each other

I was previously parent governor for eight years at my older children's school and was Chair of governors for the last three of those. I have also frequently represented parent's views on education in Islington; I have sat on the Islington Councils Overview Committee, Best Value Board and School Organisation Committee. I have significant experience of undertaking governance roles. For three years I was a non-executive director and trustee of NCPTA (a charity which supports parent associations within schools) and chair of its Strategic Planning Committee. Following my time with the NCPTA, I spent 2 years as a non-executive director of Circle Support (charitable arm of Circle 33 Housing) which was dedicated to supporting vulnerable, elderly and people with learning difficulties to live independently. At Circle Support I was appointed as Chair of the Staff Development and Remuneration Committee. I am currently studying Law at Birkbeck, University of London.

I acknowledge that there has been vast changes to school governance and that training and development feed into better governing. Therefore if elected I would undertake the further training that is available to ensure, I can undertake the role of parent governor with latest knowledge and maximum effectiveness.

I am truly passionate about the education that children receive and have a desire to ensure that every child gets the best possible education and opportunity to succeed in life.

If appointed, I promise that whilst offering all support the school needs to ensure that the strategic development of the school is achieved, I will also take the approach of a critical friend through the asking of questions and challenging the work of the head teacher and the senior leadership team to ensure that the school is not only achieving for every child, but that it is constantly striving to exceed for every child.

SEM HAR TESFAGIORGIS

My name is Semhar and I have two children at the school in reception and year 2.

Like all parents I want the best for my children and I believe that we need to support the school but at times we also need to question the way things are done. I would like to look at how things work and have an opportunity to make a difference and I would hope that I could accomplish this as a governor.

I am so dedicated to the role that I have changed my working hours in order to attend meetings and training when required.

I would love the opportunity to get to know the school community (parents, pupils and staff) more personally and feel that the skills I have gained in my personal and professional life would make me a suitable candidate for the role of parent governor.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to receiving your support!

Newington Green Primary School

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**BALLOT PAPER NO:
FOR THE ELECTION OF 3 PARENTS
TO THE GOVERNING BODY OF Newington Green Primary School**

There are 3 vacancies for parent governors on the governing body.

The names of the candidates standing in the election are as follows and you may **vote for up to 3 candidates only** by placing an 'X' in the box next to their names:

Michelle Hedges		
Vassilis Monastiriotis		
Amber Munir	EXAMPLE	
Cara Phillip		
Phil Stevens		
Semhar Tesfagiorgis		

THE BALLOT IS SECRET; WHEN YOU HAVE VOTED, PLEASE EITHER POST THE BALLOT PAPER BACK TO SCHOOL IN A SEALED ENVELOPE, OR DROP IT INTO THE SECURE BALLOT BOX IN THE SCHOOL OFFICE, ON OR BEFORE FRIDAY 8TH JULY, 9.10 AM PLEASE ENSURE YOUR ENVELOPE IS MARKED 'CONFIDENTIAL, FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE RETURNING OFFICER, PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTIONS'.