

CHR/BAP  
22<sup>nd</sup> November 2021



Dear Parent/Carer,

**Election of Parent Governor for the period 2021 - 2025**

I am delighted to say that there has been a good response to our recent invitation for nominations to the post of Parent Governor and there are seven candidates for the vacancy. This means we must now hold a ballot.

Please read the personal statements below and vote on the following link:

<https://forms.gle/oEN7isEDnJmM7xtk8>

Each parent/carers may record one vote, regardless of the number of students you have attending the school. **You must not vote for the same candidate more than once.** If you do not have the necessary IT access to vote electronically, please contact the school office for a paper ballot form.

The closing date for votes is **Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 3 pm** (votes cast after the closing date will be invalid).

May I take this opportunity to thank you in advance for your support in this matter.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'C Handy-Rivett'.

Mrs C Handy-Rivett  
**Acting Headteacher**

**Please see the candidates' statements overleaf**

**Darren Allport**

I am putting myself forward for the role of parent governor because I am keen to see the children of today grow to become the workforce and leaders of tomorrow, and believe I am able to help support that growth.

My professional background is in the health and safety industry for almost forty years, including over twenty years in the construction industry, ten years being in the Middle East and Far East/Asia Pacific regions.

I volunteer as a workplace mentor and mental health first aider with my employer. I am also a schools ambassador helping children and young adults make informed decisions on possible career options.

I understand that the role of the governing body is to hold the Headteacher, leadership team and school accountable and I believe my professional background is well suited for this task. I relish a challenge and I know that I would be fully committed to the role.

From September to December last year, I volunteered at a school in a learning support role, where I gained first-hand experience of how challenging and rewarding school life can be.

I live locally to the school and have an existing enhanced DBS certificate obtained to undertake my volunteering.

**Rebecca Beardsworth**

I have worked in the education and children sector since my first job when I was 17 (20 years ago), and have always had an interest in this area. I currently work as a HR Administrator across two Senior Schools in the West Midlands (Sandwell and Walsall).

I am actively involved in my own children's education, as a mom of two children I have always been involved in promoting the importance of attendance and academics at school, as well as safeguarding my own and those students with the academies I work for. The academies I work for are known for their views that 'every child should gain an education', and I am a strong believer of this.

Personally, I am a very active mom who loves walking with my massive black Labrador. I like to draw and all types of music. I spend a lot of my weekends either watching my children run for their running club, walking miles with my dog or baking.

I have put myself forward as Parent Governor as I want to support St Michael's in continuing to strive as Outstanding in all aspects. I feel I can bring a number of aspects to the Governing Body and am passionate about continuing to improve the education and life skills of our young people.

**Pippa Dean**

My son currently attends St Michael's High School in Year 10. I am currently employed full-time at a local primary school as the Business Manager where I have been in this position for the last three years. My previous employment has been within the sales departments of the hospitality industry.

Working within a primary school has given me great knowledge and insight to support the school with many aspects, including being part of the leadership team within the school setting, financial knowledge which includes school funding and budgets, personnel, admissions, facilities management, health and safety, in which I have full training, safeguarding, attendance and wellbeing. My skills gained from working in hospitality are dealing with all levels of targets, working to strict deadlines and dealing with sudden changes. I am very approachable, assertive and work well within a team or independently as required. I am very keen to ensure that I can support St Michael's in their desire that every child can be successful both academically and socially exceed, no matter of their background, environment, special educational needs and disabilities.

I have full understanding of the commitment it takes to be a parent governor and the necessity of attending meetings and training. I feel I can offer a great support to the school, its staff, students, parents and the local community.

**Julie Heath**

I have one son in Year 7 at St Michael's Church of England High School.

As all parents do, I want the best for my child and every child at St Michael's. I am applying to be a Parent Governor in the hope that I can contribute to the future development and success of the school.

Most of my working career has been spent in services devoted to children and families. I worked for Sandwell Council for 16 years, firstly in clerical roles within child protection teams and then in customer care, dealing with complaints relating to adult and childcare issues. In these roles I dealt directly with members of the public, Councillors and many other professions.

My last 3 years at Sandwell Council were spent within a performance management role. I worked with the child protection team to implement the values of the 'Every Child Matters' initiative. I was part of a team which introduced service improvements in call answering and recording. The project also implemented an improved IT system and delivered staff training.

All these roles developed my ability to confidently, yet diplomatically, scrutinise and challenge how services are provided.

More than anything else, my work background has shown me how well organised services can work alongside families to make a huge difference in improving children's safety, welfare, academic achievement and quality of life.

I hope you will consider me for the role of Parent Governor.

**Elizabeth Kane**

I would like to apply for position of School Governor as I have a keen interest in St Michael's, not only because my daughter attends, but because I am an ex-pupil. The school is a very important part of my family's life which I believe gives me the drive and enthusiasm to contribute to the Governing Board in a positive way.

I am 45 years of age and am Mom to a 14 year old daughter and a 1 year old Cavapoo. I am a Specialist Probation Officer who works with adults with histories of adverse childhood experiences and, therefore, understand how Education can be the key to a better future. During my career, I have learned how important it is to hold onto hope, persevere and promote cross agency working to achieve the best outcomes for young people. I always go above and beyond in my work and consistently demonstrate dedication to attaining fair and meaningful outcomes for all, including those with complex needs. I firmly believe that my professional experience has given me the resilience, tenacity, and commitment to excel in the role as a School Governor. I consider myself to have a recognised strength in my written communications and value clarity. Similarly, I can hold my own amongst senior staff and the broader stakeholder group. I am proud to represent and be a flagbearer for the National Probation Service in external settings and would feel privileged to continue in this vein in the role of School Governor.

**Simon Smith**

My son is currently in Year 8 and I'm grateful for you considering my suitability for this role. I've lived within a mile or so of St Michael's all my life and I'm extremely proud of my Black Country Heritage.

I've the time and energy to help the Headteacher sustain and improve our school to achieve an Outstanding Ofsted rating. I feel that my professional experience would make me an excellent choice too.

I'm a Senior Leader, with many years' experience of working with Executives in a governance setting. Educated at Cambridge University, I've spent twenty years working for the same high profile National organisation, obtaining many transferable strategic skills that could contribute to the Governing Body.

As Head of Improvement, I'm responsible for Performance, Change, Management Risk and Communication. I've a significant track record of setting and executing outcome driven strategy; driving efficiency, effectiveness and improvement.

My goal would be to build on the excellent foundations St Michael's have attained over the past few years. I'd look to hold to account, challenge and influence school Executives and their perceptions, focusing on gaps derived from rigorous analysis to pinpoint where the school needs to be doing more for our children and staff. Transparency, equality, inclusion and diversity are all very important to me.

As public sector budgets reduce over the next few years, providing value for money will be essential to deliver a school environment that allows our young people to be their happiest to realise their potential.

**Michelle Thompson**

My daughter has recently been nominated in the school to be form captain. She is very passionate about school and pupils attending the school.

I am a Team Manager within a mental health service and believe I have excellent leadership skills. However, I am always open and willing to learn. I have a good understanding of the 3 main core functions of being a member of the Governance Board. Some of my transferrable skills are scrutinising budgets, approving policies on various aspects of school life, planning on how the school can improve, discussing why some groups of children are not achieving as well as others, dealing with staffing issues and primarily making sure children are safe.

Within my role as Team Manager, I negotiate with others and at times challenge where required professionally. I am aware of some of the schools' constraints, i.e. budgets, resources and the current pandemic challenges.

I have interpersonal skills; I can work autonomously also within a team. I have worked with those who have a disability, safeguarding both adults and children, managing staff at different levels, hiring staff and having to let staff go. I also work alongside other professionals, i.e. police, ambulance, colleges, health colleagues, council services, directors, children and mental health services also children services (list is non exhaustive).

I am keen, motivated, driven, excellent communication skills and have additional qualifications, i.e. awards in education.

I am currently developing a transition from adolescent to adult services within mental health social care and I also manage preventative services within the community. Hence, I would like to work closely with the school to also consider preventative models to ill mental health within the young population especially with the current pandemic also high increased rates of depression from the usage of social media.

I am really interested in this role and believe I have a lot to offer the school.