

CHR/SJP

23rd September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Election of Parent Governor for the period 2024- 2028

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 3 candidates for the vacancy. This means we must now hold a ballot.

As stated in the letter sent on 16th September, we are particularly looking for a governor with a specialist knowledge or interest in IT managed services and contract procurement.

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

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc8jG4h-IMQltQJWzmy7H5H-206pfrT5pJY3CVY_IyVPEUmNw/viewform

Each parent/carer may record one vote, regardless of the number of children 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 ***Friday 27th September 2024 at 3 pm*** (votes cast after the closing date will be invalid).

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

Yours faithfully,



Mrs C Handy-Rivett
Headteacher

Please see the candidates' statements overleaf

Headteacher: **Mrs C Handy-Rivett, BA (Hons), MA, NPQH**

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Ian Fleming:

My older child has just left St Michaels and this year my youngest has begun his journey in year 7 at St Michaels. My work background has been a career spent working for a large charity running one of the largest animal hospitals in the UK. I manage business finance as well as HR issues H & S and customer service.

I was vice chair of a £100m pension fund.

On a personal note, I am a church elder in the United Reformed Church. My hobbies include travel, photography, and stage magic.

I have a strong belief in the role of school governance. I have served for over 12 years as, at various times, parent then foundation governor and as vice chair, joint chair and chair of governors. During my time as vice chair, I completed the National College for Teaching and learning 's Chair of Governors Leadership Development program.

It is important in my opinion to have a mix of experience and new ideas on any board. I am a particular advocate for parents and carers to have an active voice in shaping the school's future. While a parent governor is representative of parents and carers it is vital to listen to our young people's voice in shaping their futures.

We still have a school population affected by lockdown; the pressure of mental health challenges has never been greater.

Adam Gould:

As a dedicated parent and Technical Consultant with over 20 years of experience in the IT industry, I am eager to contribute to the governance of St Michael's as a Parent Governor on the Facilities Board. My professional background in Managed Service Providers (MSPs) has equipped me with a robust skill set in problem-solving, strategic planning, and technology integration, all of which are crucial for the effective governance of a modern educational institution.

Throughout my career, I have consistently demonstrated a commitment to excellence and innovation. My role has often required me to collaborate with diverse teams, manage complex projects, and implement solutions that enhance operational efficiency. These experiences have honed my ability to think critically, communicate effectively, and make informed decisions—skills that are directly transferable to the role of a Parent Governor.

As a parent, I am deeply invested in the educational success and well-being of all students. I understand the importance of creating a supportive and inclusive environment where every child can thrive. I am particularly passionate about leveraging technology to enhance learning experiences and improve school operations. I believe my expertise in IT can provide valuable insights into how the school can adopt innovative solutions to support both teaching and administrative functions.

Rebecca Beardsworth:

As a parent of two children, I believe that education is key for a bright future and am committed to the outcomes and welfare of our children. I have an avid interest in promoting positive mental health and wellbeing in our young people both within a school setting and beyond.

I have lived in Rowley Regis all my life and am fully committed to our local community. Sandwell is noted as being the 12th most deprived area in the West Midlands region, with our young people not always having the same opportunities as others. I am committed in supporting our education provisions to ensure that our children receive a top-notch education and achieve outstanding outcomes despite this.

I am currently an Executive Assistant for a Multi-Agency Trust in Birmingham, which is made up of Primary, Secondary and Sixth Form provisions. I have over 20 years' experience in a range of administrative and human resources roles across Sandwell Children's Service, high-performing schools and multi-academy trusts. This has supported me not only in my knowledge of education expectations but with what we can do strategically to support our schools to ensure that our children are accessing a strong/challenging curriculum, culture capital and extracurricular activities programme which are key for growth and progress.

My passion for our children extends to my personal time where I volunteer as Club Secretary for a youth West Midlands based running league and am also a School Governor for a feeder primary to St Michael's C of E High School.