



**Silsden Primary
School**

12th October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Parent Governor Election – Electronic Ballot Process

Further to my letter notifying you of one parent governor vacancy, we have received 3 nominations and therefore will need to undertake a ballot. We would like to inform you that the election for our **Parent Governor** position will be conducted **electronically** this year. Moving to an online voting process helps us make the election more efficient, environmentally friendly, and accessible to all families.

There are 3 candidates who are standing for election and their names and supporting statements can be read at the bottom of this letter. The candidates have been listed in alphabetical order

Click on the link below to access the online portal and submit your vote – voting is open now.

<https://forms.office.com/e/xnDzft0vgz>

Voting will remain open until **9am Thursday 23rd October 2025**, after which the results will be counted and shared with all parents.

If you experience any issues accessing the ballot or would prefer a paper copy, please contact the school office by Tuesday 21st October 2025 so that alternative arrangements can be made. Should alternative arrangements be required, the deadline remains as stated above.

Voting is open to ALL parents with pupils in Reception – Y6 and have parental responsibility. Please note that you are only entitled to ONE vote per parent and we ask you to add YOUR full name so that we are able to verify eligibility and check for multiple votes.

This information is required to ensure only 1 vote per parent is placed and can only be viewed by the returning officer, who will be our School Business Leader, Sally-Anne Boyes and an independent witness who will be appointed by our Governing Board.



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The candidate with the highest number of votes is elected. In the event of a tie, the candidate with the youngest pupil on roll at the school will be deemed to have been elected.

We value your participation in this important process — Parent Governors play a vital role in representing the views of families and helping to shape the strategic direction of our school.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement.

Yours sincerely,

Mr K S Russell
Headteacher



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Parent Governors Nominees (in alphabetical order)

Name: Kathryn Hardeman

Personal Statement:

As a parent of two boys at Silsden Primary School, and resident of Silsden, I feel being a governor would be a positive way to support the school and local community. I think having good parent/school partnerships and relationships is important for pupil's success and wellbeing.

My current employment as Keighley Parish Children and Families Worker gives me relevant experience, including in areas such as safeguarding.

I have previously been employed in Policy and Compliance for a Bradford based debt advice charity. I am committed to and interested in sustainability – Not an expert but I have helped write, our parish environment policy.

I volunteer at the monthly Silsden Repair Café and a help at the weekly school running club.

Name: Rebecca Lonsdale

Personal Statement:

I am the parent of a child in Year 3 and a child in reception and I would like to put myself forward for the role as Parent Governor.

I am passionate about supporting children to achieve their best in a nurturing and inclusive environment that celebrates and promotes diversity. As a parent, I want to play an active role in helping the school continue to thrive. As a governor I would bring a parent perspective to decision making while working in partnership with staff and fellow governors.

In my professional life, I work as a SENCo and currently Acting Headteacher in a local secondary alternative provision. As a qualified teacher of over 15 years I have a strong knowledge of teaching and learning. In my most recent leadership roles, I understand the difference between strategic oversight and operational management. This has given hands on experience in how schools operate, the challenges they face and the importance of good governance.



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I also have experience working with families and children with a wide range of needs. While I would not be at the governing board in a professional capacity, I believe this background would help me provide professional challenge, ask constructive questions and contribute thoughtfully to the school strategic direction.

I live close to the school site and I would look forward to contributing my time and experience to supporting the school's vision and ensuring the best outcomes for all children at Silsden Primary School.

Name: John Thompson

Personal Statement:

My family and I are relatively new to Silsden, having moved here just over three years ago, and the school has already played a huge role in our lives. Two of our children have moved onto South Craven, having thoroughly enjoyed their time at Silsden, our youngest is still here.

I'm putting myself forward as a Parent Governor because I believe that education is one of the most important things we can give to our children, and I want to play an active role in making sure Silsden Primary is the best it can be. Like all parents, I want my daughter to thrive at school – to be happy, confident, and stretched to achieve her potential. But I also care about the school, and about making sure every child in Silsden has every opportunity to succeed.

Being a governor is about more than cheering from the side lines. It is about supporting Mr Russell and school staff, asking the right questions and making sure school is well run and well managed. I would bring a commitment to do that.

Our children only get one chance at their early education, and I want to use my skills and energy to help make sure it is the best possible start – not just for my daughter, but for her classmates, their brothers and sisters, and for all the pupils at the school.

Most of my working life has been in public service, leading teams and working with others to make good decisions, manage public money carefully, and deliver real results. I am used to asking difficult questions in a constructive way, and to working with a wide range of people to make sure plans turn into action. These are skills I believe could be useful to school.



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I have spent many years working on strategy and planning, often across large and complex organisations. That means I am comfortable with looking at the bigger picture, weighing up evidence, and making sure resources are used well. Managing public money has been a big part of my career, and I would bring the same sense of care and accountability to the role of governor.

I have also previously served as a local governor and deputy chair at a primary school in Hull, and as a community governor at a primary school in Kent. Those experiences taught me how important it is for governors to support the headteacher and staff while also providing challenge, particularly around finance, standards and safeguarding.

With three children moving through different stages of education, I have a strong appreciation of the school's role and responsibilities, and I would use my experience and commitment to help Silsden primary school continue to thrive.



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