

LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN		WARDS: All
REPORT TITLE Nomination of Local Authority School Governors (CL/2025/03)		
REPORT OF Executive Director Children and Learning		
FOR SUBMISSION TO Cabinet Member for Best Start for Children and Families		DATE 10 th March 2025
<p>SUMMARY OF REPORT</p> <p>This report advises the Cabinet Member for Best Start for Children and Families of vacancies for Local Authority (LA) governors on school governing bodies and details nominations for these positions where such nominations have been made.</p> <p>The report is being submitted to the Cabinet Member for Best Start for Children and Families for approval as he has responsibility for nominating the Authority's representatives to school and college governing bodies.</p> <p>Local Government Act 1972 – Access to Information</p> <p>No documents were used in the preparation of this report which need to be listed.</p> <p>Contact Officer: Vicky Wemyss-Cooke Committee Services Manager Town Hall Judd Street London WC1H 9JE 020 7974 5726 vicky.wemyss-cooke@camden.gov.uk</p>		
<p>RECOMMENDATIONS</p> <p>The Cabinet Member is asked to nominate the individuals listed in Section 2 of the report to Local Authority governor positions on school governing bodies for a period of 4 years.</p>		

Signed:



Tim Aldridge
Executive Director Children and Learning

Date:

25th February 2025

1. CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This report is concerning the nomination of Local Authority governors to school governing bodies.
- 1.2 It is being submitted to the Cabinet Member for Best Start for Children and Families as he has responsibility in the Council's Constitution for nominating local authority representatives to school governing bodies.

2. PROPOSAL AND REASONS

- 2.1 This report is being submitted as a nomination has been received from the political parties for an individual to fill a school governor vacancies.
- 2.2 It is the custom and practice in Camden that Local Authority governor vacancies be filled by nominees named by political parties in approximate proportion to their representation on the Council.
- 2.3 The following individuals are nominated for appointment as a local authority school governors:-

ARGYLE PRIMARY SCHOOL – Dan Corby, a Labour nomination

Personal statement: 'I am writing to express my interest in becoming a governor for Argyle Primary School. I believe I have the experience and ability to be useful in this role.

After more than 20 years of working in TV and marketing, I retrained as a teacher in 2011, earning my PGCE at the Institute for Education in Business and Economics. This decision has proven to be one of the best of my life. For the past 14 years, I have worked as a secondary school teacher in non-selective, state sector schools. This has been a challenging yet incredibly rewarding journey. Over the last nine years, I have been a member of the senior leadership team at an outstanding school in Barnet. My responsibilities have included leading the Early Career Teacher (ECT) programme, overseeing careers education, line managing the maths and modern foreign language department (where secondary teachers also teach in the primary school), and serving as Director of Sixth Form. For the past five years, I have also acted as the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).

Though my experience is primarily within secondary education, my current role in an all-through school has provided me with valuable insights into the challenges faced by primary teachers and leadership teams. This has sparked an interest in expanding my involvement in primary education. At one stage my role as DSL involved overseeing safeguarding in our primary school. Although this is no longer the case, the current arrangement involves liaising with the primary school DSL where there are siblings in both phases. This has given me an insight into the lives of some of our most vulnerable students.

In my senior leadership role, I regularly interact with the school governors, which has given me a solid understanding of the responsibilities of a governor. I recognise that governors play a crucial role in overseeing the management of the school, focusing on strategy, policy, budgeting, and staffing, while supporting senior leaders and teachers in ensuring high-quality education for students.

I understand that being a governor requires a commitment to attending governing board meetings and actively engaging with the school community. I am eager to offer my experience and skills to support the work of the school, acting as a critical friend to the headteacher and senior leadership team. As a lifelong Camden resident, I feel a real connection and commitment to the local area. I believe the diversity of the borough is a real strength and would welcome the opportunity to contribute to it in some way.

This year, I have reduced my working hours to four days a week, allowing me the capacity to take on a governor role and dedicate the necessary time and energy to this important responsibility.

I am particularly keen to become a governor at Argyle Primary School. While I do not have direct experience with the school, I have been impressed by the information available on the school's website, its recent Ofsted review, and the government's school dashboard. The "Argyle Adventure" programme stands out as an ambitious initiative, and it is clear that personal development is a key strength of the school. Furthermore, the school's impressive achievements, such as high standards in reading, writing, and maths, reflect a strong commitment to providing an excellent education.

I would be excited to contribute to the continued success of Argyle Primary School and would welcome the opportunity to support its leadership team in delivering the best possible outcomes for students.

Thank you for considering my application.'

HAMPSTEAD PAROCHIAL SCHOOL – Anya Abdulakh, a Conservative nomination

Personal statement: 'I would like to apply for the position of governor at Hampstead Parochial Church of England Primary School, as I believe my experience and passion align with the goals of the school.

For the past three years, I have been supporting the Ukrainian refugee community, both as a volunteer and professionally. I have volunteered for two years as a mentor with The Promise Foundation, guiding Ukrainian teenagers to achieve their academic and personal potential. I currently work as a freelancer with EHCVS (ehcvs.org.uk), focusing on social inclusion and empowering Ukrainian refugees within Ealing Council.

Prior to that, I founded and managed an OFSTED-registered family club in St John's Wood (3 House Club) for ten years. The club provided local children and parents with after-school activities, workshops, and regular classes. Before this, I spent over ten years working in consulting and asset management companies.

At present, I volunteer as a member of the London Committee for Human Rights Watch.

From a personal perspective, I strongly believe in the importance of providing children with a moral and value-based foundation rooted in the key values of Christianity as part of their upbringing.

I am confident that my financial expertise, passion for education, and commitment to social inclusion would make a valuable contribution to the school's board of governors. I would be particularly interested in exploring opportunities for the school to increase its income, as well as engaging with charities and other schools to offer more educational and developmental opportunities for the children at Hampstead Parochial Primary School.

Thank you for considering my application.'

3. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

- 3.1 The Cabinet Member may decide to nominate the above individuals as a local authority governor. Alternatively, he may decide not to do so and to leave the positions vacant.

4. WHAT ARE THE KEY IMPACTS / RISKS? HOW WILL THEY BE ADDRESSED?

- 4.1 The key impacts of the decision will be on the governing bodies of individual schools.
- 4.2 Individual schools have been encouraged to meet with prospective governors and to provide new governors with a programme of training. School governors will need to be sensitive to the needs of the school community, and govern in the interests of the school, and ensure that they do not act in a way (either in-person or online) that would bring Camden Council or the school into disrepute.
- 4.3 Governing bodies may reject the Authority's nominee if they are of the view that they do not have the "skills to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school" and if they do not meet any other eligibility criteria the governing body has set.

5. CONSULTATION/ENGAGEMENT

- 5.1 Consultation has taken place with the individuals who lead on school governor recruitment for the political parties and information about prospective governors has been provided to the schools they have been nominated to.

6. OUTSTANDING VACANCIES

- 6.1 The outstanding LA school governor vacancies are:

School Vacancy	Political Party	Notes
Christchurch NW3	Lib Dem	
Gospel Oak	Labour	
Holy Trinity & St Silas	Labour	
Maria Fidelis	Labour	
Netley	Labour	
Our Lady's	Labour	
St Eugene de Mazenod	Labour	
St Joseph's	Labour	
Swiss Cottage	Labour	

7. LEGAL COMMENTS OF THE BOROUGH SOLICITOR

- 7.1 The School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2012 explains that LA governors are nominated by the LA but appointed by the governing body. Therefore, the governing body may reject the LA's nomination if it decides that the nominee does not have the "skills to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school" and if he/she does not meet any other eligibility criteria the governing body has set.

8. FINANCE COMMENTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES

- 8.1 The Director of Finance has been consulted on the contents of this report and has no comment to add.

9. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no environmental implications.

10. TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- 10.1 The decision will be implemented once the call-in period has expired, which is five working days following the issue of the decision sheet.

11. APPENDICES

There are no appendices to this report.

REPORT ENDS