

St. John's CE (VC) Primary School and Nursery



ELECTION OF PARENT GOVERNOR - BALLOT FORM

I recently wrote to parents to invite nominations for parent governors.

I am delighted to say that there has been a good response and there are four candidates for the two vacancies. This means we must now hold a ballot.

Both parents of a child at St. John's is able to vote for two of the candidates. Candidates are listed in alphabetical order.

Voting form for Parent 1

Parent 1 needs to vote for two candidates by placing two X's in this table.

NAME	VOTE HERE
Stuart Allen	
Stacie Dobson	
Will Hughes	
Danielle Kirk	

Voting form for Parent 2

Parent 2 needs to vote for two candidates by placing two X's in this table.

NAME	VOTE HERE
Stuart Allen	
Stacie Dobson	
Will Hughes	
Danielle Kirk	

Please return this voting paper to the school before 12.00 noon on Friday 14th November 2025.

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SAMPLE

St. John's CE (VC) Primary School and Nursery



The personal statements of each candidate follow in alphabetical order.

Stuart Allen – Personal Statement

As a parent of a child in Reception, I care deeply about the success, happiness, and future of every child at St John's. I am applying to become a Parent Governor because I believe that education has the power to transform lives, and I want to play an active role in helping our school continue to provide a safe, joyful, and inspiring place to learn. Every child deserves to feel seen, supported, and empowered to achieve their full potential, and I am passionate about helping St John's nurture that in each and every child.

Professionally, I serve as Chief Education Officer at SCL Education and Training Group, where I lead on curriculum design, quality improvement, safeguarding, and strategic planning across a national education provider. Over the past 13 years, I have held senior leadership roles including Vice Principal and Executive Director, which have given me extensive experience in educational strategy, policy, and financial management. Through this work, I've seen how the right culture, built on high expectations, inclusivity, and genuine care, can change outcomes for young people. I would bring this experience, alongside my deep belief in the power of education, to the role of governor.

My motivation, however, is first and foremost as a parent. I want every child at St John's to wake up excited to go to school, to feel safe, valued, and inspired to explore their world with curiosity and confidence. I am especially passionate about supporting children's wellbeing in a world increasingly shaped by technology. While digital tools open up exciting opportunities, they also bring new pressures on confidence, identity, and mental health. I believe schools have a crucial role in helping children navigate this world safely and positively, fostering both digital literacy and emotional resilience.

I am a collaborative, forward-thinking leader who values clear communication, teamwork, and evidence-based decision-making. I am always willing to listen, ask questions, and learn from others. I understand that governors play a strategic role, acting with integrity, honesty, and objectivity to ensure decisions are made in the best interests of all pupils. I am committed to working in partnership with the Headteacher and fellow governors to raise standards, celebrate success, and help shape the school's future with optimism and ambition.

If elected, I will approach the role with energy, empathy, and a deep sense of responsibility. I will be an active and engaged member of the governing body, visiting the school, supporting staff, and promoting St John's within the wider community. I am driven by a genuine desire to make a difference and to help our school continue to be a place where every child feels they belong, are encouraged to dream big, and are equipped to succeed.

I would be honoured to serve as a Parent Governor and to contribute my experience, insight, and unwavering passion for education and child development to the continued success of St John's.

LinkedIn Profile (for further information)

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/stuart-allen-4a4b5557/?originalSubdomain=uk>

Stacie Dobson – Personal Statement

After meeting the existing governors for a cup of tea and informal chat, on 16th October, it has confirmed that the parent governor role is one that I can have an impact in. I am excited to help make a difference for all stakeholders at St. John's, including the pupils, parents, and teachers. As a local resident for over 30 years who got married at St. Peter's Church, a parent of a St John's pupil, and an Assistant Headteacher for a Derby Secondary School, I have a vested interest to give back to the community of St. John's – which I can do using a holistic viewpoint and a wealth of skills.

I look forward to using my experience of education and leadership, along with my parent perspective to help to shape and change the lives of the young people and families in my local community.

As an Assistant Headteacher, I have responsibility for raising standards at KS3 (Years 7-9) which involves driving pupil achievement and progress through curriculum, teaching and learning, quality assurance, and pupil voice / experience. Therefore, I have an excellent insight into where the pupils of St. John's should be at the end of their Year 6 journey, and I can use that transitional knowledge of primary-secondary education to provide support and challenge to St. John's. I am involved in making strategic decisions, on a weekly basis, so I have experience in working as part of a team to determine that the ethos and mission of a school are reflected in their strategy and outcomes. I can be that critical friend and evaluate whether proposed actions are aligned with the agreed strategic direction.

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As a Senior Leader, I regularly monitor pupil progress and ensure that school priorities are in line with the areas of need / development that have been identified in quality assurance, results, pupil experience and staff / pupil voice. I work with the governors and senior leadership team to analyse and evaluate the outcomes and look for areas of improvement. We then decide on the areas of priorities for the school, for that academic year, through a process of collaboration and critical reflection. I can use this experience to hold Mr Averis and the staff body, at St. John's, to account for their school performance, whilst having that ability to understand the different perspectives of school results, performance, and pupil experience.

I hope you consider me for the parent governor position, as I have a wealth of education and leadership experience that I would like to bring to St. John's to help continue with their vision of "developing unique, confident and happy children, within an exceptional Christian learning community, preparing and empowering them for life in a changing world". However, I will do this through an objective, but personable, lens and one that has our children and St. John's at the heart of the community.

Will Hughes – Personal Statement

St John's holds a special place in my heart. As a former pupil from reception, the school nurtured my love of learning, sport, and community, values that have shaped my life and career. The excellent teaching, opportunities to represent the school in football and other sports, and the supportive environment provided enrichment far beyond the classroom. Now, watching my four-year-old son begin his journey here, I'm inspired to give back to the school that gave me so much.

Growing up in Belper, my experiences at St John's set me on a path toward a career focused on creating opportunities and addressing inequality. The school's caring ethos, respect for individuals, and commitment to empowering children to be their best still resonates. As a parent, I see these values continue to thrive in the school's culture.

Professionally, I work as Strategic Lead at a charity called Active Partners Trust, where I collaborate with local authorities, health, and voluntary sector partners to address inequality and systemic barriers to physical activity. I bring experience in strategic planning, cross-sector collaboration, and co-design approaches. I manage significant budgets, including Government and Lottery funding, and have line management responsibilities. My role involves aligning resources effectively across systems.

Previously, I worked in further education and with a local disability charity, gaining insight into inclusive practice and the challenges facing young people. I understand the pressures schools face today, particularly around inequality and wellbeing for both staff and pupils.

My approach is collaborative and egoless. I value different perspectives, ask questions to ensure clarity, and remain respectful. As secretary of Belper Hammers Volleyball Club for 13 years, alongside coaching junior players, I've helped sustain a volunteer-led organisation, giving me a strong understanding of governance and collective responsibility.

I'm interested in contributing to areas such as pupil wellbeing, inclusion, and stakeholder engagement. I understand that governors work strategically, committed to focusing on the core functions of governance. I bring time, passion, and skills to fulfil the parent governor role and am eager to undertake any necessary training. I look forward to working with governors and school leaders to ensure every child at St John's receives the excellent education and opportunities I was fortunate to experience.

Danielle Kirk – Personal Statement

I'd love to be a parent governor at St. John's because I care deeply about our children's futures and I want to help ensure every decision puts them first. After attending the recent "cuppa and chat" with governors, I felt even more inspired to be involved.

Holding a PGCE in Early Years of Childhood enables me to understand the world from a child's perspective. This educational background equips me with the insights into child development, which can be invaluable in shaping policies that support holistic growth.

In my professional capacity, I manage a team across three customer channels for a global enterprise, with a flexible schedule to support governor responsibilities. My daily responsibilities include building relationships, effective listening and clear communication skills I am keen to apply to this role.

Above all, my dedication lies in advocating for what is best for our children. As we shape their future, I would be honoured to contribute to this important endeavour.