

# UNITED SCHOOLS FEDERATION



**St Michaels C. of E. Nursery & Primary | St Catherine's C. of E. VA Primary | Marldon C. of E. VA Primary | Brixton St Mary's C. of E. VA Primary | Ipplepen Primary | Stokeinteignhead Primary | Doddiscombsleigh Primary School | The Topsham School**

20<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Dear parent(s)/carer(s),

I wrote to you on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024 to invite nominations for the vacancies for parent governors. As we have more candidates than vacancies, we must now hold a ballot. With this email, you have a list with the names of the candidates and also the link to make your votes. You may vote for up to TWO of the candidates. You should:

- Read the candidate statements attached to this letter
- On the Electronic form, mark an X alongside the TWO candidate's names you wish to vote for, and the required information. **Do not** mark the ballot paper in any other way.
- Complete the electronic ballot paper via the link by 4pm 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Please use the following link to make your vote.

<https://forms.office.com/e/d7wMvtx47w>

The use of the electronic voting system ensures that your vote remains confidential, and your vote is anonymous. If you are unable to access the electronic system or prefer to do in person, please go to your school reception and they will be happy to help you place your vote.

If you have any queries about this process, please contact me by email at [penelope.rossetter@st-michaels-pri.devon.sch.uk](mailto:penelope.rossetter@st-michaels-pri.devon.sch.uk)

Yours sincerely,

*Penny Rossetter*  
**Clerk to the Governors  
And Returning Officer**



**Executive Headteacher:** Mr Martin Harding

**Heads:** Kate Arnold, Victoria Pearce, Jon Arnold, Adrian Clements, Marcus West, Joanna Crathorne, Sophie Wiseman, Claire Webb, Amanda Russell, Maria White, Amanda Lacey

**Chair of Governors:** Mr Nicholas Glanfield

# Parent Governor Ballot

## United Schools Federation

### March 2024

## Candidate Statements

Candidate	Name	School
A	Amy Louise Camp	Marldon
B	Aaron Clark	St Michael's
C	Richard Davies	Marldon
D	Victoria Faulkner	St Michael's
E	Chris Green	Ipplepen
F	Carl Grindrod	Topsham
G	Lauren Hockley	Marldon
H	Charles Russell	Ipplepen
I	Tracey Tyreman	Marldon



**Candidate A**  
**Amy Louise Camp**

My name is Amy Louise Camp, and my daughter is in reception. I am applying for this post as I am passionate about achieving positive outcomes for children, especially within their place of safety, school. I am a registered social worker and presently an assistant team manager with the multi-agency safeguarding hub.

I have been qualified since 2017 and worked across numerous settings in both adult and children's services which has given the skills and knowledge that I believe would be useful for this post. As a social worker and manager, I hold a strong commitment to improving outcomes for children, I have effective inter-personal skills, natural curiosity, and a willingness to learn and develop new skills. I would be able to work effectively with other Governors to ensure that there is a clarity of vision, ethos, and strategic direction. I am used to being within meetings and chairing meetings in a professional and respectful manner. Within my role, I manage complex and fractious situations with parents and professionals and therefore I am confident to address a variety of difficult situations. I would be able to hold executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils and the performance management of staff. I supervise a variety of professionals. Therefore, would be able to support in the overseeing of the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent. I am passionate that professional and children have their voices heard to ensure that the school achieves the best outcome for children and staff. Therefore, I would be able to ensure the voices of stakeholders are heard by the Governors. In my role, I hold vast knowledge of the law and how to apply the law to practice. This would mean that I would be able to support and ensure that the governing body complies with all legal and statutory requirements.

I am confident in my knowledge and limitations and therefore would confidentially seek the advice of the clerk to the governing board and other professional advice as appropriate. I would be happy to commit to undertake training to acquire or develop the skills needed to be an effective governor. I have not been part of the board previously and I am a new parent to the school. However, I am able contribute to the work of the governing board during their term of office and for the next 4 years at least.

**Candidate B**  
**Aaron Clark**

As a parent, new to world of parenting children at St Michael's primary school, with my daughter aged 5, I am incredibly passionate about supporting the processes and work that are operating and being undertaken at the school.

I am no stranger to education, having spent the majority of my professional career within mental health and wellbeing, working with some of the most challenging children, aged 5-6 through to young adolescent.

My time with local community groups, 3<sup>rd</sup> sector charities, local authority and larger organisation in strategic, safeguarding and management roles allows me to understand the schedules and structures within this remit of work. I believe I bring a plethora of skillsets, knowledge bases and empathy to the role of parent governor having so heavily carried the approach of wanting to maximise and better the education system for the young people of this county and ensure that implementation of support, learning, guidance and safety is paramount to all children, and staff/volunteers, is the best it can be wherever possible. I am a highly qualified leader, manager and mentor and provide expertise from various fields into a role such as parent governor. Fresh ideas, new contributions and a willingness to support and offer my expertise and experience where best fit to strengthen the board of governors and speak for the many parents who feel as I do, without the expertise to deliver. It is with no doubt a role I would cherish and with my public speaking expertise and learning and development knowledge, be a voice of great pronouncement, dedication and inspiration to give what I can to the board/team within.

A strong communicator, facilitator and proud parent who would relish the opportunity of being involved with this role. Understanding governance is a familiar subject matter to me through the various roles I have held professionally, but it is not without more learning and understanding and so I acknowledge the chance to further strengthen governance elements through the role of parental governor whilst speaking as a parent, for the parents, with the parents. Education is everything and I believe not just for the children but for the parents as well. Giving parents the ability to contribute and apply their thoughts and reflections to make school a place where everyone can thrive. If I am able to be a part of the process of improving the above, contributing voice, opinion and difference where needed, I welcome your response and thank you for your time.

**Candidate C**  
**Richard Davies**

I am dedicated to undergoing any relevant training needed to ensure I am an effective governor. My current job is flexible and I work from home so I would have no problem attending the required meetings and training required for this position.

If given the opportunity I would serve the board of governors by evaluating topics for discussion and asking relevant questions, with the aim of ensuring decisions made always have the students and schools best interest as a priority.

Although I do not have previous experience working as a parent governor, I do have extensive experience working with senior leadership teams and the levels of confidentiality that this position would require.

I would love to play a part in the shaping the future of the school and providing a parental perspective for the board.

**Candidate D**  
**Victoria Faulkner**

I wish to be considered for the role of parent governor as part of the governing board. My son currently attends Froglets, and we are hopeful following our application for Primary he will join Reception in September; therefore I have an invested interest in St Michael's and the trust.

Having worked in education for over 20 years, from nursery through to Primary age, I have a wealth of past and present knowledge, experience, and empathy within the education system. I would therefore be committed to undertaking training to support this role within the governing board.

I currently work as SENDCo 3 days a week at a Primary School in Torquay. Prior to this I was the Team Leader for years 2-4 alongside a full-time teaching post. My journey first started working for a local nursery, this then led to a teaching assistant post at a Primary school in Exeter where I then later become a class teacher as well as lower KS2 lead, science lead and sports school co-ordinator.

Since working at my current Primary school, I took on a term as a teacher governor until the governing body was removed from the trust, where I then became part of the Academy Challenge Team in which we worked across all schools in the trust as part of the replacement for the Governing Body. To further support my voice within the school, I also become a NEU rep and continue this role.

Moving forward, I have been part of a time of change within the school and trust, we have now moved to become part of a new Trust after an Ofsted visit. Following the inspection, I supported the development of the Post Ofsted Action Plan and have already fulfilled many aspects I was leading on.

As a family we are practicing Christian's and attend Abbotsbury Church in Newton Abbot, both my husband and I have key roles within the church, I am currently Vice Chair of the Parochial Church Council.

I hope the above demonstrates that I would be a committed member of the governing body and have a lot to offer as part of a governing body within United School Federation. As I work part-time in my SENDCo role, I am confident I can fulfil the expectations of the role and have a positive impact on the school, wider community, and trust.

**Candidate E**  
**Chris Green**

My daughter started at Ipplepen Primary School in September 2020, it was a difficult first year with lockdowns and home schooling but she settled in well despite this and loved her first year at school. That was certainly an exceptional year for everyone, but no doubt the pressures on schools were immense. I remember thinking at the time, that some things were handled well and some things could have been better, but throughout all of it, my child loved going to school and that, at the end of the day, was the most important thing. She is now in Year 3 and still loves her time at school but I find I still have the same feeling that some things are handled well and some could be improved and so I ask myself what can I do, what could I offer?

I work as an Operations Coordinator for a charitable organisation called [Research in Practice](#), part of the [National Children's Bureau](#). At Research in Practice we produce resources, training and research for, and with, professionals in the social care, health, criminal justice and higher education sectors, to improve the lives of children, families and adults. The National Children's Bureau strives to deliver a better childhood across the UK through projects such as the Anti Bullying Alliance, Council for Disabled Children, Childhood Bereavement Network and the Schools Wellbeing Partnership.

Throughout my career I have always had a strong focus on administration, organisation, business processes and using technology to affect change and efficiencies. Although I am not experienced in the content of the resources and learning Research in Practice provides, I am experienced in how we produce them, the required governance and compliance practice as well as business processes that run in the background. I have worked as an Administrator, Project Manager, Personal Assistant, Business Support Coordinator and now lead the Business Support Team managing administration staff. Although not formally HR trained I am the HR lead for Research in Practice through experience, overseeing recruitment, providing guidance to staff and line managers and managing the salary budget. I am also the GDPR lead, offering guidance and advice to colleagues to ensure compliance. I believe I could offer my experience in these areas to support the school if required.

I have volunteered as a parent reader over the last 12 months having undertaken the necessary DBS checks and Safeguarding training and I have enjoyed seeing the children's confidence and reading ability grow and I gained a valuable insight into how the school and the teachers have to develop their learning and content to fit a wide range of abilities to enable each child to achieve their best.

Last, but not least, I am a parent. I am interested in the continual development of the school for the benefit of my child and the children of others; I want to see every child

thriving and having opportunities that will shape their future and inspire them to do their best. To support this, I would like to see more of the 'voice of the child' within the school, giving pupils opportunities to shape the school and their experiences, ensuring they have a voice when it comes to expressing their views.

I recognise that my role as a governor would be as a critical friend to the school leadership team, asking questions to challenge thinking and holding leaders to account rather than being part of the decision making process for the day to day running of the school; I am willing to complete any necessary training to enable me to do this effectively. I work mostly from home in the village and I have let my employer know that I am interested in this role and that occasionally I may be asked to visit the school during the day and they are supportive.

If I can play a part in assisting the school to achieve the best outcomes for all children, I would be very grateful for the opportunity.



**Candidate F**  
**Carl Grindrod**

Thank you for considering my application to become a parent governor on the United Schools Federation governing board. My two children attend The Topsham School (Year 1 and Reception) and I am very keen to play a part in ensuring the best outcomes for them and all pupils at Topsham school and across the Federation. I would be hugely motivated to contribute to ensuring pupils have the best possible experience of early schooling that instils a lifelong love of learning. I am a senior finance professional with experience of working with executive boards, and have been a trustee of a local charity until recently. This has exposed me to the crucial role a board has in ensuring effective governance within an organisation, and of holding the Executive to account. That said, my skills in this area can always be improved, and I would look forward to developing these further and learning from fellow board members.

With a background in finance, I am experienced in assessing the financial performance of an organisation to ensure it achieves value for money, especially in an environment of increasingly tight budgets. My time as a charity trustee has also meant I am experienced in steering the strategic direction of an organisation in often fast-moving external environments. This has included managing risk and ensuring appropriate mitigations are in place.

I would bring a collegiate approach to the role and ensure the views of others are heard. I know from my time as a charity trustee the importance of being well prepared ahead of meetings and of building good relationships with key stakeholders, as well as taking proactive steps to understand the organisation, such as in-person visits and talking to staff (and pupils in this case).

**Candidate G**  
**Lauren Hockley**

As a parent of two children at Marldon Primary I would be passionate and committed to share a parental perspective in relation to the education that they receive. I have good knowledge of the education system, current legislation and guidance as I have spent several years working as an Education Officer for the Local Authority.

I feel this will enable me to have a key and balanced contribution to share thoughts and be part of the governing board. I work closely with schools and sit on boards (rep the LA) in respect of exclusions so have a strong understanding of the roles.

I am particularly keen to champion children being part of an inclusive, trauma informed and relational environment, where they can achieve, feel safe, and have a sense of belonging to fulfil their potential.

**Candidate H**  
**Charles Russell**

I have two children who attend Ipplepen School and we have been pleased with the way they have both adapted to the school and it's environment. As a school parent governor, I would have the opportunity to make a significant impact on the education and overall well-being of children that attend the federation schools.

My experience in running businesses employing 70 plus staff and now our own business in supporting bereaved families in the funeral service industry brings valuable skills and perspectives to the table. By being actively involved in the governance of the schools, I can contribute to creating a nurturing and inclusive environment that supports the physical and mental well-being of students.

My dedication to providing a good education aligns with the belief that every child deserves access to quality education which ensures their needs are met and striving to be the best they can be. By becoming a school parent governor, I can help shape policies and decisions that ensure the best possible educational experience for all students, making a lasting difference in their lives. Every day is about learning and I would embrace the opportunity to develop my own skills by undertaking training for my own needs to fulfil this role.

**Candidate I**  
**Tracey Tyreman**

Hi, I am Tracey, mum of Sophie who is currently in Reception class at Marldon Primary School.

I have previously been a co-opted school governor of a small primary school in Exeter where I held the positions of Vice Chair and also chaired the Finance and HR sub-committees. I have had many other voluntary positions over the years working with children and young people, ranging from mentoring young offenders to working as a youth mentor on sail training tall ships and I currently volunteer at a primary school in Torbay to listen to children read with a therapy dog as well as being registered as a volunteer for Marldon and the United Schools Federation.

I have the time, enthusiasm and energy to commit to the role of school governor. I believe children should benefit from a good day-to-day experience at school enabling them to eventually achieve their full academic potential. I am very passionate about the investment and support provided to children to enable them to thrive and achieve great academic success and in the 6 months my daughter has been at the school I have seen first hand how supportive and caring the school and leadership can be. My partner and I run a Health & Safety Consultancy business and my previous roles include Human Resources and Facility Management for a professional accountancy firm and prior to that I owned a hotel in Torquay.

I am sure the skills and knowledge I have acquired over the years will help me assist the governing body if I am elected. I have plenty of experience in respecting confidentiality, teamworking and communicating with and supporting all levels of professionals. When I was previously a school governor I undertook several training courses, however as this was around 8 years ago I would be willing and wanting to undertake any relevant training the role required. In doing this role previously I have experience at holding school leaders to account for educational performance of the school and its pupils and also working with the governing body to ensure money was well spent.

I hope to have the opportunity to serve on the governing body to act in the best interest of all your children during their journey through the school.