

Candidate name: Dan Bell

Candidate Statement:

Expression of interest Parent Governor at Highfield Primary School

I have always been interested in the environment and how we as individuals can contribute to continued sustainability. This has manifested itself in various ways throughout my educational and working life. Recently, I have helped set up and the Park & Stride scheme for motorists to be able to safely bring their children to school and walk from the Tree Tops car park, a short distance from the school. I also oversee the voluntary duties associated in relation to the opening and closing of the car park in line with the agreement made with the local councillor to maintain permission to utilise this council premise. I am a can-do person with strong environmental principals which I try pragmatically to encourage my children and others to do as well, wherever possible.

I sit on a steering group for the local Climate Action group, Alwoodley 2030. I have recently connected the hub worker with the school council to develop educational links. The projects this group are involved with linking directly to Active Travel, are something I intend to have continued involvement with. Wherever possible I wish to make these work for Highfield's school community, as an example for other local schools to do likewise. These efforts, amongst other things may include Dr Bike repairs, Bikeability training or led Rides as well as other attempts or initiatives with local schools to try to boost this type of travel, perhaps even Walking/Bike Buses?...

Bikes are a passion for me and the place cycling can have in family life, and more importantly in the school family, on a day-to-day level. I have made efforts already to develop the links between the school and residents living locally who are affected by the vehicular habits of our parents during pick-up and drop off. I would relish the opportunity being in a role, as a parent who can provide and influence that perspective but in way which adheres to the climate change agenda and the needs/concerns of those living locally.

For a number of years, I have been a Trustee of local charitable organisation, on a local housing estate where the needs of various socio-economic groups are developed by a variety of different services/initiatives. My role here has enabled me to experience lots of community matters, issues to do with safeguarding, (which I have been the main contact on) youth work, trustee roles, recruitment and arts-based projects. All involving decision making and legal constraints as well as funding acquisition and management. For example, I coordinated the funds and application of designs by local children/adults on over a dozen utility boxes dotted around the Lingfield/Fir Trees in partnership with a mural artist. Doing the same on boxes around our school would be an ambition, replenishing annually for messages derived through partnership with groups like climate action and the school council.

I have a background working in schools as a student, a tutor, an outreach co-ordinator and having worked for a number of charities delivering outreach on out of the classroom learning. This required me to spend many hours in many schools in the Manchester, Leeds, London and Northants areas. Although some years have passed since, recently returning to full time work having been privileged enough to fulfil a stay-at-home parent role whilst keeping an eye in with bikes. Working on micro-mobility and with one eye on the agenda for the environment in our City, I would like to think I am well placed to offer a valuable parental perspective as well as possess skills that will complement the governing processes our school will face over the next decade. Moreover, my experience as a child,

was one in a primary school where the bonds and experiences surrounding the social committee and families involved were the most formative. As an adult, I can now better understand the complexities which exist beneath the surface of family life and the need for comprehension and communication for the benefit of the school in such matters. Thanks for reading and your consideration.