

Candidate Name: Mrs Syma Walmsley

Candidate Statement:

I am applying to be considered for the role of Parent Governor because I have a keen and personal stake in contributing to the continued success of Highfield Primary School. My daughter is currently in Year 1 and hopefully my younger daughter will be starting Reception this coming September.

I have been interested in the role of Governor for a while and have been looking for a suitable opportunity to use my skills and experience to give back to society. As my children have become a little older, I now feel that I can dedicate time to volunteer work.

The education system plays such a critical role in these formative years for our children, and I have been incredibly impressed by the dedication and enthusiasm shown by all the Teachers, Staff and Parents of Highfield.

I believe that I can make a valuable contribution to the continued success of our School. I am keen to help set the framework so that children can excel and fulfil their full potential.

I am passionate in ensuring that our children receive the best start in life, of which their education and well-being is at the forefront. I feel that I can offer the school and wider community the benefit of my experience gained throughout my professional career.

As a Senior Finance Leader with over 15 years of post-qualified experience acquired in the Financial Services and Retail Sectors, the organisations and sectors that I have worked in offer similar synergies to the role of governor. At the heart of my professional career, I ensure that teams work towards common goals and recognise success, whilst also maintaining a forward-looking approach and constantly look for improvements.

I am adept at forging and maintaining strong relationships with all levels of hierarchies and believe communication is key to ensure that the best possible results are achieved. I'm not afraid of healthy debate or challenge, however I recognise that great performance is a collaborative effort rather than an individual success. Throughout my career, clear decision making has been key, I have been results orientated and delivered information in a concise, consistent, and informed manner.

I am used to working in fast paced and dynamic environments and have experience in leading teams in providing strategic roadmaps which are monitored, budgeted, and analysed across the business. I also have experience of careful Cashflow Management and Budgeting and Forecasting to ensure ongoing liquidity given the recent suppressed economic climate.

Whilst working in high profile Commercial Finance roles, I have been able to develop a highly analytical and numerate skillset. I evaluate business cases, including a cost benefit analysis and recommend a clear course of action.

I collaborate with Operational leaders and have therefore developed Strategic and Commercial acumen. I'm able to communicate and present complex information in a user-friendly format to the Board and Executive Management.

I understand the roles and responsibilities of Governor and I'm always willing to learn. I would be happy to undertake any requisite training for the role to ensure that I am a successful and valuable member of the Governing Board.