

September 2021

Nominations for Parent Governor

Steena Nasapen- Watson

I am mother to a very active soon to be 5 year old, Annika who is in reception. We are new to the area. Annika is an only child, who loves the great outdoors, climbing trees and making friends. I enjoy socialising, going for long walks and looking after my little family, when I am not working, mainly cooking and spending some quality time together.

In my previous and current roles, I have and managed several programmes, translating strategic direction into deliverables, with particular attention to extensive stakeholder management, risk, compliance and change parameters. Although new to the community, we are keen to take an active role in making sure that we serve and feel that we belong. I do not have previous experience as a school governor, but have worked closely with schools in the past, in my roles at the Environment Agency, Northumbrian Water and also at the Institution of Civil Engineers, delivering high quality engagement on STEM activities and active community involvement, regarding the implementation of flood risk management in the local area. I have also been a mentor and I am part of the Girls Network.

I have been and am accountable for delivering my organisation's business plan through tangible delivery objectives. I have extensive experience in data analytics, continuous improvement and finance control. Having led teams, I am fully aware of HR procedures, compliance to KPIs and performance monitoring. None of my experience is in the school sector, but I have extensive experience of governmental and regulatory frameworks, which I hope are as stringent as the school. I manage extensive stakeholder engagement and also deal with diverse and sometimes conflicting expectations.

I am a honest, trustworthy and reliable individual , but most importantly above all, I am a mother who is keen to be part of her child's and other local children's education. I am passionate and believe that I can support and contribute to our community by ensuring that the best framework is provided to all of our children.

Ruth Symes

Hi, I'm Ruth. Many of you will know me from being involved with the PTA and selling you second hand uniform! I have been a parent at Broomhaugh for 7 years. My eldest two children are now at Corbridge Middle School and I have Nell in year 2. I love living in Riding Mill and taking an active role in the school and local community.

I am proud to have been part of the STARS (Saving Tynedale's Amazing Rural Schools) campaign, which helped secure the future of our fabulous three tier school system. I am Treasurer on the PTA committee and also a trustee for the Village Halls Trust.

As well as a mum of 3, I am a Speech and Language Therapist. I have 19 years' experience working with schools and parents to support children's speech, language and communication skills. I lead a team of Speech and Language Therapists and work collaboratively with other health, education and social care professionals. I work very closely with school leadership teams to develop policies,

enhance knowledge and skills and support the implementation of strategies and whole school approaches. I am able to think flexibly, solve problems, question decisions and communicate clearly with others.

In whatever spare time I have, I enjoy running, paddleboarding and meeting up with friends.

I would like to be a school governor because I am passionate about education, supporting all children to achieve their best and I feel now is an important time for our schools starting a new partnership as a federation.

Ruth Brown

Having worked as part of the Riding Mill Outdoor Preschool team for 3 years I have formed major strong ties to this special village. I grew up in the similar village of West Woodburn and attended the tiny (now closed down) first school.

After a history of teaching music and working throughout schools I did my teacher training in Gateshead and for the last 20 years or so I have been in and out of every kind of educational establishment possible (including private tuition in people's homes and running a summer school for children in Durham.) As part of the supply pool I have had experience in all the roles within primary schools including office and dinner staff jobs!

I was lucky enough to squeeze my daughter Iris into Reception in Broomhaugh C of E first school despite living outside of Riding Mill and I am so pleased that she is getting this chance to thrive in such a close knit and carefully run school. I have high hopes that my younger son Hamish will also be able to join the family when he is ready.

Through my work at the adjoining outdoor preschool (as well as getting to know many of the parents at Broomhaugh) I have become well used to hearing opposing views and conflict and striving to be the voice of solution when problems occur.

It has always been a dream or ambition of mine to be able to assist with the overseeing of a school in the role of governor and it would be an honour to be a spokesperson and be able to have a voice within the governing body of the school.

Sunniva Thompson

I have been a member of the community since moving to Riding Mill twelve years ago, so I may be familiar to many of you. I am Norwegian, English is my second language, and our children are being raised in a bilingual home environment. I am married to Garth Thompson who is from Northern Ireland and who also works within the extended community. We have three children - Maia, Iona and Oskar - who have all attended Broomhaugh either currently or in recent years, and we attend the local church, St James'.

I went to school in Norway where I lived with my family until I spent a year of high school in the States at age eighteen. After a year at the University of Bergen where I am from, I then obtained my bachelor's degree in physiotherapy from Northumbria University in Newcastle. I went on to enjoy a fulfilling career in orthopaedics at the RVI and Freeman, until I had my second baby. For the next ten years I was a full-time homemaker, which I loved, as it was both hard and wonderful, however when Oskar started school in 2019 I felt it was the right time for me to re-join a professional environment

and stretch myself mentally. I am now responsible for HR in our business; a growing local wealth management business with offices in Corbridge.

Outside of work and family life, my interests include good friends, books, baking, learning about health and fitness, as well as walking and running in the countryside. I enjoy travelling further abroad and have been enrolled in Spanish classes for several years. I have close friends in the local area, and enjoy our little communities discussing reading and crocheting. As a family we also try to go back home to Norway as often as we can.

With particular regard to the position of governor, I would like to pay back some of the effort and support that the school and community have given to us as a family and particularly my three children. I also have a personal interest in children with extra needs, as Oskar has a language disorder, so I feel I have a lot to offer in terms of this perspective. I value working within a team to reach a common goal, and believe that the many voices and minds of our community working together can only mean a more positive, nurturing and beneficial environment for our children and families, giving them all the best chance to flourish and grow.