

# Parent Governor Candidates

## Sophia Araz

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“I would love to become a parent governor because I genuinely care about our school and the experience it provides for every child. As a parent, I see how much of a difference a supportive, well-led school makes—not just academically, but in building confidence, friendships, and a love of learning. I’d really value the opportunity to contribute more actively to that. I understand that the role of a parent governor isn’t about getting involved in day-to-day decisions, but about supporting the school’s overall direction, offering constructive challenge, and helping ensure the best outcomes for all pupils. I’d approach the role with an open mind, ready to listen to different viewpoints and work collaboratively with staff and other governors. I believe I bring a balanced perspective as a parent, along with strong communication skills and a practical, thoughtful approach to decision-making. I’m organised, dependable, and willing to commit the time needed. I’m also passionate about inclusion and making sure every child feels safe, supported, and encouraged to reach their potential. Ultimately, I want to play a small but meaningful part in helping the school continue to grow and succeed. I’d be proud to represent parents’ views and contribute to a positive, ambitious environment that benefits both current pupils and future families.”

## Patrick Talbot

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“My name is Patrick Talbot, and I live in Longthorpe with my wife Nia and our two children. My son started at Longthorpe Academy this year and my daughter will hopefully join the school in September 2026. My wife was previously a primary school teacher for 19 years, so I have gained a good understanding of the challenges that are faced by schools, staff and pupils. I currently work for the railway industry’s health and safety regulator as the Head of Operations where I lead the teams responsible for regulation of the Channel Tunnel and Transport for London. I have experience of assessing organisations’ performance and holding organisations and senior leaders to account against legal standards. I have also worked with a wide range of stakeholders to raise the profile of railway safety in primary and secondary schools following a series of serious incidents involving children and young people. I am keen to join the governing body as a parent governor as I believe that my skills and experience would allow me to support the entire school community to ensure that Longthorpe Academy and the Academy Trust continue to deliver the very best for all pupils, parents and staff at the school.”

## Hannah Bryant

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“I am writing to express my interest in becoming a Parent Governor at Longthorpe. With both of my children having attended the school, I have seen first-hand the positive impact it has had on their development and wellbeing. The support the school has given my family over the years has been invaluable, and I now feel ready to give something back by contributing to its continued success. I have a strong passion for children’s education and a particular interest in how we can create nurturing, inspiring environments where every child can thrive. My professional background is in early years, which has given me a solid understanding of child development, safeguarding, and the importance of high-quality learning experiences. While my experience has been centred around early years, I am keen to become more involved in primary education and broaden my understanding of the challenges and opportunities within this phase. Alongside my professional experience, I have been actively involved in the local community through my work with the preschool. This has strengthened my ability to collaborate with families, staff, and community partners, and I believe these skills would transfer well to the role of Parent Governor. I am confident that my perspective, commitment, and community experience would allow me to make a positive contribution to the governing body. I would welcome the opportunity to support the school in shaping its future and ensuring that all children continue to receive the high-quality education and care that my own children have benefited from.”