

29<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to inform you that nominations for our Parent Governor vacancy have now closed, and we are moving forward to the voting stage.

We received multiple nominations from several parents/carers keen to contribute to the strategic leadership of our school. We are grateful for their interest and commitment to supporting our school community.

### **Voting Details:**

- Voting opens: **Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025 at 09:00**
- Voting closes: **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at 16:00**

### **How to vote**

Please use this link to access the online voting form: [Online Voting Form](#)

Alternatively use the following QR code to access the online form:



Each parent/carer in our school is entitled to one vote, regardless of the number of children they have at our school.

Candidate names and statements are included below in the ballot pack to help you make an informed decision.

The elected Parent Governor will act for the benefit of all children in the school therefore, we encourage you to take part in this important process.

If you have any questions about the election or voting process, please contact:  
[governance@nllt.co.uk](mailto:governance@nllt.co.uk)

Thank you for your continued support.

Warm regards,

Northern Lights Learning Trust  
Governance Team

## Ballot Pack

### Candidate 1 (Ms D. Whitehead)

#### Personal statement

As a parent and a passionate educator, I am applying for the role of Parent Governor because I believe strongly in the value and impact of a high-quality education. This belief is not only personal but also professional—I chose to pursue a career in teaching and am currently a secondary school maths teacher. I see daily how education shapes young lives and opens doors to future opportunities.

I am particularly invested in supporting the continued excellence of our school. Our children deserve to attend a school that not only maintains its outstanding standards but also continues to grow and adapt to the ever-changing educational landscape. I want to play an active role in ensuring the school remains a place where all pupils feel supported, challenged, and inspired. I am keen to contribute to discussions around curriculum, standards, safeguarding, and pupil wellbeing. Most importantly, I want to ensure that every decision made has the best interests of the pupils at heart.

I would welcome the opportunity to support the leadership team and wider school community in continuing to make our school a place where all children thrive.  
Thank you for considering my application.

### Candidate 2 (Mr R. Ritchie)

#### Personal statement

Statement:

*As a parent of a child at Benedict Biscop CE Academy, I would value the opportunity to support the school as a parent governor. My daughter, Isabel, loves her time here, and I am keen to contribute to the academy's continued success.*

*I work as a Product Designer and Media Specialist at Nuby UK, with nine years' experience in the early years sector. My role has given me strong knowledge of child development, safety standards, and the importance of nurturing environments. I am also DBS checked.*

*Beyond my professional work, I have experience in creating animations for TV, cinema, and Blu-ray, reflecting creativity and effective communication. I also bring skills in project management, risk assessment, and working directly with children.*

*I am enthusiastic about representing the parent voice and working collaboratively to ensure that every child at Benedict Biscop has the best opportunities to learn and thrive.*

## **Candidate 3 (Ms G. Carrick)**

### **Personal statement**

I am passionate about education and committed to ensuring every child has the opportunity to thrive. With over 20 years of connection to the school through my three children, I understand its values, culture, and the needs of our community. I hold mental health qualifications and support vulnerable individuals and families, including those affected by domestic abuse, anti-social behaviour, and complex needs. I work closely with agencies such as Together for Children, local police, fire services, councillors, and social services to ensure communities feel safe and supported. I manage a city-wide budget in my current role and work in a fast-paced, demanding environment supporting tenants from diverse backgrounds. I bring strong safeguarding awareness, inclusive practice, and a deep understanding of SEN, pupil premium, personal development, and attendance. I am well connected to local social and educational groups and run the Let's Explore North East Facebook page, which has over 8,500 followers and supports families across the region. I also actively support careers events at the school. With excellent communication skills, strong local knowledge, and a professional approach to governance, I am confident in listening, asking questions, and representing the parent community. I would be proud to contribute my experience, insight, and dedication to the governing body and help shape the future of the school.

## **Candidate 4 (Ms S. L. Robinson)**

### **Personal statement**

I am an Occupational Therapy student specialising in childhood studies and Special Educational Needs (SEN), with experience working within the community to support children and families. My background has given me a strong understanding of the challenges young people face in accessing education, as well as the importance of inclusive practices to ensure every child can thrive.

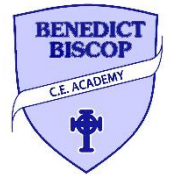
Alongside my studies, I serve as an ambassador for the Royal College of Occupational Therapists and work with the NHS decision-making council, where I contribute to discussions on policy and practice. These roles have developed my skills in leadership, communication, and collaboration, as well as a commitment to ensuring that decisions reflect the needs of the community.

As both a parent and a professional-in-training, I am passionate about supporting Benedict Biscop CE Academy in providing a safe, nurturing, and inspiring learning environment. I believe my experience in SEN, safeguarding awareness, and understanding of holistic child development would allow me to make a meaningful contribution to the Governing Body, ensuring that the voices of parents and children are represented in the school's strategic direction.

## **Candidate 5 (Mr T. Middleton)**

### **Personal statement**

I have a keen interest in education, being the Faculty Leader of Science at a local secondary school, as well as a parent with a young daughter attending Benedict Biscop. I am keen to contribute to the school community and to our children's development through education. It is my belief that we should strive to create a positive environment based on inclusivity advocating for every child, allowing them to thrive.



My professional role equips me with the experience required to represent the views of other parents and to advocate for all pupils. I have experience of strategically leading and managing staff as well as developing curriculum, safeguarding pupils and identifying how best to support each student in my care. This experience has given me a comprehensive understanding of the educational system, ensuring high academic standards are kept in place.

I am passionate about making learning accessible and engaging for all students.

Representing the voice of fellow parents and contributing to the governing of our school would allow me to bring this same dedication and perspective to the role of Parent Local Governor. I aim to ensure that Benedict Biscop continues to provide an inspiring and nurturing atmosphere for all. It is my belief every child should feel valued and empowered, allowing them to reach their full potential.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your consideration. I am committed to working in unison with the governors, staff, parents and the school community of Benedict Biscop to support our school and continue to help it flourish.