

Name of candidate	Candidate Statement
<p><b>Joanna Karaoulani Lawson West</b></p>	<p>Having worked within the field of Mental Health for over 20 years, I have developed an eclectic therapeutic and working approach (person-centered, problem-solving, dialectical, compassion-focused, and Aristotelian). My work as a mental health therapist combines theoretical concepts that include improving communication, promoting positive thinking, encouraging learning ways to cope with stress, prioritizing tasks, setting boundaries, and setting specific goals. My personal qualities as a researcher, mental health therapist, and tutor of children (Hospitals, Neuropsychiatric Clinics), and specialist of mental health to undergraduate and postgraduate students at the universities all over the UK involve the ability to demonstrate empathy with people’s thinking, anticipate misconceptions, and allow them to develop understanding in a variety of ways, show flexibility, be caring and approachable in responding to their needs. Additionally, my qualities as a therapist for adults, young people, and children include empathy, authenticity, unconditional positive regard, effective communication and clarification, a problem-solving mindset, flexibility, and a caring and approachable demeanor in responding to their needs, which would meet and improve the expectations for the role.</p>
<p><b>Kiran Gollapudi</b></p>	<p>As a parent with a strong commitment and a professional background as an actuary (Head of Reserving for a multi national insurance company), I am excited to offer my skills and experience to the governing board. As an actuary, has given me robust analytical abilities, a deep understanding of financial management, and a methodical approach to problem-solving. These skills will contribute directly to the school’s financial oversight, help ensure that budgets are managed responsibly, and support strategic planning and risk management. I have a passion for education and want to help create an environment where every child can thrive, regardless of their background or needs. My experience of working in highly regulated environments means I understand the importance of robust compliance, safeguarding, and risk assessment. I enjoy working collaboratively to solve complex challenges and am committed to holding the school leadership to account while providing support. I am fully prepared to dedicate the time required for meetings, training, and school visits. I look forward to using my expertise to strengthen the governing board’s capacity to make sound decisions, ensure transparency, and deliver the best outcomes for all pupils. Thank you</p>
<p><b>Alastair Waite</b></p>	<p>I am writing to express my interest in the position of School Parent Governor at The West Bridgford School. As a parent of a Year 8 student, I am excited by the opportunity to support her educational journey and that of her peers. With over 30 years in the fashion industry, I bring a proven track record of leadership and collaboration, and I am confident in my ability to contribute effectively to school governance. My career has been driven by excellence, innovation, and sustainability—values I am eager to bring to this role.</p> <p>For the past five years, I have been Head of Year 1 for the Fashion Management course at Nottingham Trent University, overseeing the academic and personal development of a diverse student cohort. I manage a team of lecturers and support staff, ensuring high-quality education through curriculum development, student welfare, and innovative teaching. My collaborative leadership fosters a supportive, inclusive environment. I also work on linking further education to higher education across Nottinghamshire and the UK, scaffolding a success-for-all approach. I have also worked directly with The West Bridgford School for the past three years, delivering workshops to Year 11 students on progression and pathways into university. Additionally, I have presented assemblies to students from Year 7 through Year 11, focusing on careers and</p>

	<p>the routes to achieve them—supporting aspirations and informed decision-making. My international experience has given me a broad perspective on global cultures and educational systems. Living and working abroad has enriched my understanding of diversity, which I apply in my current role with students from around the world. This ability to connect across cultures will be a valuable asset as a School Parent Governor.</p> <p>I also have extensive experience in budget management, ensuring efficient and strategic resource allocation for the Fashion Management course. I value transparency and accountability—principles essential for effective governance.</p> <p>Sustainability and well-being have been central to my career. I’ve championed eco-friendly practices in fashion and integrated sustainability into university curricula. I actively promote mental health and work-life balance, believing these values are vital to long-term success and well-being in education.</p> <p>As a lifelong learner, I pursue professional development and encourage growth in those I lead. My inclusive leadership style empowers others to contribute their unique perspectives and talents.</p> <p>In conclusion, I am enthusiastic about serving as a School Parent Governor and contributing to The West Bridgford School. My industry and academic experience equip me to make a meaningful impact, be a critical friend, and challenge when needed. I am committed to excellence, sustainability, and well-being, and I look forward to supporting the success of your children and school. Thank you for considering my application.</p>
<p><b>Dr Helen Ma</b></p>	<p>I am writing to express my interest in joining the local governing body as a parent governor.</p> <p>As a parent whose son just started at the school this September, and with over 20 years of experience as an entrepreneur in AI and sustainability, I bring both a fresh parental perspective and professional expertise to the role. I am also currently a governor at Nottingham College, which has deepened my understanding of effective governance in education.</p> <p>My career has focused on digital innovation and Artificial Intelligence across industries including aerospace, renewable energy, and logistics. I am co-founder of Anteam Ltd, an award-winning AI start-up making logistics more sustainable. I was honoured with a Purple Plaque at the University of Cambridge in recognition of my work as a female innovator in AI-driven logistics and am a winner of the Women In Innovation Award from Innovate UK. Alongside my professional work, I mentor young people and collaborate with universities to support student development, which is rewarding to witness the power of education.</p> <p>As a governor, I would bring strategic insight, governance experience, and interpersonal skills, while also being committed to listening, learning, and asking thoughtful questions. I understand the importance of balancing effective challenge with support and of working collectively with the board to uphold the school’s vision and values.</p> <p>I am passionate about preparing young people for a rapidly changing world, especially regarding their future, mental well-being, and safety around AI and sustainability. Above all, I strongly believe in providing every student the opportunity to become “The best we can be” within a diverse, inclusive and supportive environment.</p>

<p><b>Barisa Fathima</b></p>	<p>I am Barisa and am mother of Shafana Salman, who joined Year 7 this year. Many of my community kids study in West Bridgford School for some years and through them I hear so many positive learning environment in School and I have been incredibly impressed by the dedication of Teachers, the support staff and the management of the School. I am keen to become more actively involved in the school's strategic direction and ensure it continues to provide excellent education for all children.</p> <p>I am Civil Servant working with HM Courts and Tribunals Service for more than 10 years and the experience has provided me with skills like prioritizing the work commitments, planning, leading a team and financial knowledge. I believe that I would be a great asset to the governing body as I was previously a Parent Governor for more than 3 years for Djanogly City Academy when my son was studying in school.</p> <p>I am a strong believer in the importance of parental engagement and constructive communication between parents and the school. If elected, I will represent the views of parents and work with the governing body to ensure that every decision is made with the best interests of the pupils at heart. I am a team player, a quick learner, and am committed to undertaking the necessary training to be an effective challenging "critical friend" to the school. I am confident that I can use my skills and passion to support the school's continued success. Thank you for your consideration.</p>
<p><b>Dave Murray</b></p>	<p>All four of my children have attended WBS, and I currently have Finn in Year 12 and Leo in Year 8. Professionally I work in technology leadership, giving me experience in governance, risk management, strategic planning, and people development. I am used to making decisions with long-term impact and balancing the needs of multiple stakeholders. Most importantly, I am committed to supporting the school community and will give the time and energy needed to help WBS continue to provide the best possible education for all its students.</p>