



# St Clement Danes Church of England Primary School

Drury Lane, London WC2B 5SU

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[www.st-clementdanes.westminster.sch.uk](http://www.st-clementdanes.westminster.sch.uk)

Headteacher: Miss Patricia Coxhead

18<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to let you know that we have received four nominations for one parent governor vacancy. Since there are more nominations than places a ballot will be held. Information about each candidate is attached.

## How to Vote

Two ballot papers are also attached to this letter. Every eligible parent may vote, and should receive one ballot paper, irrespective of how many children they have at the school. Only original ballot papers will be accepted. If you require a replacement ballot paper, this should be obtained from the school office; photocopies are not acceptable.

### **You may vote for one candidate only.**

**To vote in person** - please bring your ballot paper to the school either at the start or the end of your child's school day from Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021 to Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> June 2021. Each ballot paper has two envelopes attached, the voter seals their completed ballot paper in an unmarked envelope, the voter should then seal the unmarked envelope inside the outer envelope. They should write their name and their child's name clearly on the outer envelope. The voter should return the double envelope to the school, posting in the ballot box in the Atrium area. On receipt of the ballot paper the name on the outer envelope will be checked against the list of those entitled to vote and the relevant name ticked off. The outer envelope is then removed and shredded and the inner envelope placed in another ballot box for counting at the appointed time.

**To vote by post** - using the same system as above you can return your ballot paper by post to the school - St Clement Danes CE Primary School, Drury Lane, London, WC2B 5SU.

If we receive a vote with no name on the outer envelope containing the ballot paper we cannot count your vote.

**Please note it is your responsibility to ensure that the envelope containing your vote is received by the school, it is not the responsibility of school staff to check book bags.**

The ballot closes at 3.30 pm on Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> June 2021 and all votes must be received by this time in order for them to be counted. The count will take place at 3.45 pm on Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Deb Starkey on 020 3096 9745. If you would like some help in interpreting this letter please ask at the school office.

Yours sincerely  
Deb Starkey  
Clerk to Governors



## PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTION

Please see the following statements from the four candidates:

### **Parent: Ms Abra Gepfert – Mother of Meriel Gepfert (Reception)**

I would like to stand as a parent governor of St Clement Danes

My eldest daughter is currently in Reception, and my younger daughter will be starting in St Clement Danes Nursery in September.

I am a qualified barrister, and have been practising at One Essex Court, London for over ten years. I specialise in advising on commercial law. I am member of the One Essex Court management committee, responsible for the financial and strategic direction of the set, which is one of the largest commercial law sets in England.

I was a community governor at Friars Foundation Primary School in Southwark for five years, stepping back when I went on my first maternity leave. I was an active member of the governing body, sitting on its two most important committees, The Attainment Committee and the Finance Committee, of these I was Chairperson for three years.

As a result of my professional expertise and my prior experience as a school governor, I believe I have a very valuable skill set which I can bring to the role of parent-governor. I am organised and highly motivated. I have the capacity to understand, and to challenge, the school performance data that will be presented to the governing body. I am financially numerate, and familiar with considering, advising on, and implementing legal and regulatory frameworks.

I believe strongly in the importance of education and would like to help ensure that the children at St Clement Danes receive the best possible education and opportunities.



**Parent: Mrs Dina Menzies – Mother of Emilia Menzies (Nursery)**

Having spent my childhood years in a war-torn Lebanon, I learnt to appreciate the ability to go to school, to have an education and to make life-time friends. It wasn't always easy, especially when country politics got in the way of our education, but we went along with it because there was no other option. Now, having kids of my own, I want to make sure that they are afforded quality education, a trusting parent-teacher-student relationship and a balanced community life.

I studied law at university and have worked in the legal profession since 2012. I believe my professional experience will be an asset to this position. My skills include problem solving, attention to detail, good communication and social skills and the ability to see things from another's perspective.

Our children are the future and we are their custodians who look out for their best interest. My desire is to be of assistance to both the parents and the school, so that St Clement Danes (STCD) is in touch with the issues that matter to parents and carers and to help make sure that each one of these custodians has a voice. I understand that in order to do this in a practical way, I will need to put in the time, which I am prepared to do, in addition to undergoing any further training that might be required, so that we can all continue to work together for our children's future.



**Parent: Ms Ellinor Rai – Mother of Freddie Rai (Year 4) & Henry Rai (Year 3)**

My two youngest sons attend St Clement Danes — Freddie is in Year 4 and Henry, Year 3. They have a 19 year old brother, Gabriel, who is currently studying Music at university. You may also know my little grey dog, Supergirl! I have lived in the Covent Garden area for 25 years.

My background is in the Performing Arts as well as fast car racing rallies, but don't let the latter put you off! I am active in the Swedish Church Ulrika Eleonora in Marylebone, as are the boys. My husband is Sikh, and active, with the boys, in the Gurdwara Khalsa Jaha.

When The Sunday Times' Schools Guide 2021 placed St Clement Danes among the top 40 state primary schools in the country, while we weren't surprised, it was a real moment to celebrate. It reminded us all that the school's focus to ensure an outstanding, inclusive and ambitious education for every child, as well as the provision of first-class pastoral care, is truly inspiring. Moving forward, I am particularly interested in using my connections within our amazing Covent Garden community to seek further support for the school.

I would like to think that I have the skills and enthusiasm necessary to both represent the parents and be a useful member of the governing body.

Thank you for your consideration.



**Parent: Mr Frido Ruth – Father of Juliette Ruth-Miss (Year 1)**

It is great that we parents and carers have a place on the Board of Governors. St Clement Danes is an amazing school and I would love the opportunity to be part of key decisions on policies and spending, in order to make sure every one of the children can fulfil their potential. There are also things that I am personally passionate about:

On top of the school's already outstanding academic ambitions, experiencing the joy of music and performance makes our children's lives fuller and helps them develop, especially in these difficult times. As an actor/musician, I would be a passionate advocate for the Arts in our school.

Our children's privacy is also close to my heart. It is great to see online safety being promoted by the school. This is such a tricky subject and can easily be misunderstood. It is essential that children, parents and teachers all know about the hidden and ever-changing threats to privacy. Perhaps I could help here.

It is wonderful to see all our children and families grow in the community around St Clement Danes. I want to do as much as I can to be a critical friend to the school in the challenging and important work they do every day.

