



Red Gates School

Governor Profiles 2020 – 21

<p>Barbara Alcaraz</p> <p>Co-opted Governor</p> <p>Term of Office: 04.12.2017 - 02.12.2021</p>	<p>I have had the privilege of being a co-opted governor at Red Gates since December 2017 and my term of office is for 4 years. I have been made very welcome as I visit school and enjoyed celebrating the achievements of the children at various events.</p> <p>Having been a governor in a Croydon special school for 14 years I am committed to ensuring children have the surroundings in which they can feel emotionally and physically safe. This aligned with a nurturing, supportive and well-resourced environment means they can thrive and grow to fulfil their individual potential.</p> <p>At Red Gates I have responsibility as governor for Safeguarding and supporting the training and development of the governing board.</p> <p>I have served as a governor in several mainstream schools gaining a very valuable wider perspective of the challenges facing schools. My background has been in education in various forms, but my most recent work was as Health and Safety Manager at the Horniman Museum for 12 years. I want to use my experience to support growth and development to secure an appropriate well-resourced school for all the children who may need the surroundings and experienced staff it's specialised provision can offer.</p>
<p>Etienne Becker</p> <p>Parent Governor</p> <p>Term of Office: 16.09.2019 – 15.09.2023</p>	<p>I was elected as parent governor in September 2019. I have lived in Croydon since 2012 and have found the Borough and the Redgates School as a central figure to be a warm hospitable community especially to those that have family members with special needs.</p> <p>Before becoming a Parent Governor I was elected and currently hold the position of Vice Chair of the FORGS which is a very friendly and welcoming registered charitable group of parents, carers, staff and friends working together to raise funds for Red Gates School and for which I must say I have thoroughly enjoyed being involved in all the fun and fund raising activities.</p> <p>I heard about the vacant Parent Governor role and I felt that it was something I would enjoy and could use my work experience as a Clinically trained Integrated Psychotherapist. My Son Israel joined Redgates Primary Special School in September 2017 and is well settled and is happy to be in his class.</p> <p>My desire to be part of Redgates Governing Body derives from a genuine interest in school improvement at all levels and a deep-rooted belief in the importance of education for all. As a practitioner I find myself interested in making a difference in counselling and psychotherapy for children and young people.</p> <p>I hope that some of my skills will be useful to support Lorraine Slee and the staff and governors as they continue to develop what is already a good warm, welcoming school into one that can be outstanding in many ways.</p>
<p>Monic Beckles</p> <p>Co-opted Governor</p> <p>Term of Office: 10.10.2018 – 09.10.2022</p>	<p>I am a co-opted governor at Red Gates School. I have over 25 years business leadership experience, gained predominantly in credit management and professional services. My specialisms are compliance, change management and people management. For me, it's all about the people, which is why I started my own business in 2015 to provide HR, mediation and employment law services to organisations, as well as advocacy services to employees.</p> <p>Since 2016, I have worked with a charity that helps local youths to realise their ambitions through the provision of training and mentoring services. I am also a committee member for the Patient Participation Group at my GP practice, helping to continually improve the quality of healthcare services provided to the local community. The opportunity to do the same for the educational experience provided to the children and parents of Red Gates was the driver behind my decision to become a governor.</p> <p>When I am not working, I can often be found playing tennis or football (yes, I confess, I'm a fan!) with my children and grandchild in the local parks or enjoying quality time with my mother. Listening to music, and of course dancing to it, are my other passions!</p>

<p>Sarah Erridge</p> <p>Co-opted Governor</p> <p>Term of Office: 16.09.2019 – 15.09.2023</p>	<p>My name is Sarah Erridge and I am delighted to have joined the Governing Board of Red Gates School. Since being appointed in September 2019 I've enjoyed getting to know the school and meeting with various staff to hear about the tremendous work that takes place to create a nurturing and supportive learning environment where pupils can thrive.</p> <p>In my day job, I work as a Marketing & Communications Manager for a financial services business that is headquartered in London. I also have a background in the arts having studied music prior to my career in business marketing.</p> <p>I'm very much looking forward to working with the governors and school leadership as we work together to support the school, its staff and pupils</p>
<p>Gillian Francey</p> <p>Co-opted Governor</p> <p>Term of Office: 16.10.2017 – 15.10.2021</p>	<p>I have been a Co-opted Governor at Red Gates school since September 2017, and previously a governor at another school in the Croydon borough. I have worked in the retail industry for 15 years, and most recently I have worked in project management and strategic development roles.</p> <p>I first found out about the role of school governors through a talk in my work place which was aimed at encouraging more people in business to become governors. I was inspired by what I heard and wanted to use my skills to support a school local to where I live in Selsdon. I was very pleased when a vacancy became available at Red Gates.</p> <p>Over the past year I have been involved with restructuring the administration team and recruitment. I enjoy working with the other governors and staff at the school and I am passionate about helping the children here to reach their full potential.</p>
<p>Martin Hammond</p> <p>Co-opted Governor</p> <p>Term of Office: 07.07.2020 – 06.07.2024</p>	<p>I am a co-opted governor at Red Gates School and was appointed in July 2020. I am passionate about ensuring that all young people in Croydon have the opportunity to maximise their potential, and so am excited to be able to contribute towards pupils at Red Gates getting the most rewarding education possible. When researching the school prior to my appointment, I was particularly struck by the prospect of joining a genuinely caring school community that also has real ambitions for the future.</p> <p>In my day job, I am currently an in-house lawyer for one of the UK's financial regulators. As part of my previous roles in private practice, I advised large businesses on the legal and practical aspects of their governance and risk management arrangements, as well as on their general compliance with legal obligations. I hope that these experiences will allow me to make a valuable contribution to the governance of the school.</p> <p>I am really looking forward to working with Red Gates School's excellent governance and management team, staff, pupils and parents.</p>
<p>Melissa Hendry</p> <p>Associate Member</p> <p>Term of Office: 01.01.2018 – 21.12.2021</p>	<p>You will all know me as the deputy head teacher of Red Gates School. I have been at Red Gates since 2004 and this is my 10th year as a governor. I am incredibly passionate about our wonderful school and give my all to ensuring all our pupils reach their potential. Working with our governing body enables me to give a valued insight into school life and provide the team with a staff prospective.</p> <p>Outside of school I have 3 young children who I enjoy entertaining through many things I have learnt as a teacher at Red Gates, they especially like all the messy play!</p> <p>I am incredibly proud to be the deputy and governor of such a great school.</p>

<p>Collette O'Brien</p> <p>Staff Governor</p> <p>Term of Office: 01.01.2018 – 21.12.2021</p>	<p>I currently work at Red Gates School as a teaching assistant in Mint class. I have worked at this school for over 3 years, and originally started as a LTSA (lunchtime supervisor). I have worked in different schools, doing different positions for over 9 years, and have finally found my true passion working with special needs children.</p> <p>I love my job because it gives me the opportunity to teach and support children through a range of different learning techniques. It also allows me to see the children develop in confidence and independence. I have been a staff governor at this school for just over a year and am very proud to be part of such a good supporting network. Being a governor at this school has allowed me to see the school progress and develop.</p>
<p>Paul Oshisanya</p> <p>Local Authority Governor</p> <p>Term of Office: 07.07.20 – 06.07.2024</p>	<p>As a resident of Croydon for over 16 years, it is a pleasure to be appointed as Local Authority Governor. I am looking forward to making a positive contribution and giving back to the community.</p> <p>My background is in insurance however my career has been in the rail industry where I have extensive project management experience working in the delivery of major railway infrastructure projects. Currently I work as part of the team overseeing the controlled delivery of the south east route capital renewal portfolio of projects.</p> <p>Outside of work I am a married father of 2 boys (16 /11yrs). I really enjoy gardening, DIY and most recently was a volunteer junior Rugby coach for a local team.</p> <p>I do not take on this role lightly and appreciate the commitment required. I therefore look forward to working with the school management and governing team, Croydon council, parents and the local community in developing a renewed ideas-based platform that puts the interest of the students at its core and can challenge decisions.</p>
<p>Susan Powell</p> <p>Co-opted Governor</p> <p>Term of Office: 10.08.2017 – 09.08.2021</p>	<p>I was appointed as a co-opted governor and Chair of Governors in August 2017. I was born and brought up in Croydon and went to school in Croydon. After training as a teacher at a college in Devon, I came back to Croydon to teach and then to become a headteacher for over 20 years. I then spent seven years working as a consultant in schools in Surrey before I retired. At that time, I decided to become a governor and most recently was Chair of Governors in a local authority school in New Addington and in two academies in Thornton Heath.</p> <p>I enjoy singing and over time have belonged to different choirs. I also try to keep fit and enjoy taking part in exercise on a regular basis.</p> <p>I was delighted to be asked to become a governor at Red Gates, and I have been impressed by the commitment and hard work of the staff, parents and carers to ensure that we achieve the best that we can for all our pupils.</p>
<p>Lorraine Slee</p> <p>Headteacher</p> <p>Term of Office: Ex Officio</p>	<p>I am privileged to be leading the committed and nurturing teams that work across Red Gates School and look forward to continuing to work with them to provide the best learning opportunities for our pupils.</p> <p>I have a Masters Degree in Education (SEN) and am a qualified teacher for the Deaf and for Multisensory Impairments, with post graduate training in teaching children with Autistic Spectrum Disorders.</p> <p>Since qualifying as a teacher, I have enjoyed working in a range of educational settings, including primary schools, secondary schools, special needs advisory services and special schools, with a focus on learners facing challenges.</p> <p>I passionately believe that at the heart of our curriculum are our pupils and the purpose of our curriculum, both the academic and pastoral aspects, is to prepare them for life outside of our school, so that they can enjoy the best quality lives and most independence that they are able to, as they grow towards becoming young adults and once they leave school.</p>

<p>James Stremes</p> <p>Co-opted Governor</p> <p>Term of Office: 04.08.2019 - 04.08.2023</p>	<p>I'm James Stremes and I was co-opted onto the Board of Governors in the summer of 2015. As someone who was born and brought up in Addington and attended Gilbert Scott School and now again lives and works in the area I was delighted to be given the opportunity to help, in a small way, Red Gates School in the fantastic work that it undertakes. For the last twelve years I have been working in the education sector in Support Staff roles with responsibility for finance and estates management. There was little surprise therefore when I was originally given responsibility for Red Gates' Premises Committee. The Governing Body no longer runs individual committees, but I continue to be the link Governor responsible for Premises and Health & Safety. I have had involvement with the expansion of Red Gates over the last two years and am currently involved in the feasibility study looking at the School site as a whole. Despite the limitations of current funding I believe we have a fantastic site, expertly looked after by the Site Manager and School staff generally. Hopefully the feasibility study and possible funding for future developments will further enhance the facilities. I look forward to working with the School, Croydon Council and contractors in developing ideas and will ensure that parents and other interested parties are brought into this consultation process at the appropriate time</p>
<p>Ben Rodin</p> <p>Co-opted governor</p> <p>Term of Office: 18.03.2019 – 17.03.2023</p>	<p>My name is Ben Rodin and I was appointed a governor at Red Gates in March 2019. I am a qualified accountant and currently work at the National Audit Office, an independent organisation that scrutinises public spending for Parliament.</p> <p>I am a local resident in Croydon, and I am really pleased to have the opportunity to support the Headteacher and her team in the fantastic work they are doing at Red Gates. I am keen to get more involved in the work of the school over the coming months and I am really looking forward to spending some time in the school to get to know everybody better.</p>