

Jagadeesh Ratnala

1. Please state briefly why you wish to be a governor:

I am standing for election as a Parent Governor at Reading School, bringing a strong personal and professional commitment to the field of education. Having attended a similar grammar school during my own academic journey, I have first-hand experience of the positive impact that high expectations, dedicated staff, and a supportive learning environment can have on young people. I come from a family deeply rooted in education and leadership—my parents have served as a Head Teacher and Bank Managers—instilling in me values of academic excellence, integrity, and community service from an early age. Professionally, I am an IT Consultant and Project Manager, adept in strategic planning, communication, and problem-solving, skills that I believe will be useful in supporting the school's development and ensuring the best outcomes for students. I am passionate about fostering an inclusive and high-achieving culture at Reading School and would be honoured to contribute my experience and perspective as a Parent Governor.

2. Please detail any skills and experience you have that you feel would benefit the role of governor:

I have studied in a similar Grammar School, also I am from the strong educational background with great values. I have strong socio academic skills to fulfill the role with honesty and high degree of commitment

Satyajit Sinha

1. Please state briefly why you wish to be a governor:

I have always had a strong sense of giving back to the community. A school becomes a focal point for any parent from a sense of community and belonging. It is also one sphere of life that we all devote such a large proportion of our lives towards, first ourselves and then via our kids. So it is apt that we try in our own ways to put something back into it too. I am a father to two boys at Reading school - one about to transition into university life in a couple of years and another just starting on the secondary school journey. I have experienced first hand how much effort the school and the staff put in every day to mould these kids into becoming mature responsible adults. I feel that we can all contribute in our own ways to the school and I feel being a governor is one way I can.

2. Please detail any skills and experience you have that you feel would benefit the role of governor:

I have been a School Governor previously over two separate terms. I was a Co-opted School Governor for approximately 4 years (Mar2015-Mar2019) for a Primary school in Fleet, Hampshire. I have also been a Local Authority Governor for Hampshire County Council from Jan2010-May2012 for a primary school in Farnborough. Over both these stints I have gained a very good experience about how a governing body functions. I was part of the Grounds, ICT, Finance committees as well focussed my time on Curriculum and Publishing/Marketing matters. As part of my day job I lead sales activities into a large customer for my company - so I have good experience related to finances, procurement and liaising with businesses.

John Alderslade

1. Please state briefly why you wish to be a governor:

I am thrilled to have two sons at Reading School. I couldn't think of a better school to help them develop from children to adults with the values and confidence we as parents want to see in all our children. I am applying for the position of Parent Governor with enthusiasm, driven by a deep commitment to ensuring Reading School not only thrives today but is strategically positioned to shape a successful future for every student. My professional background in project management and my experience as an employee representative have equipped me with the unique governance skills necessary to offer robust, balanced, and insightful contributions to the governing body.

I want to support the school in fostering a culture of courageous values within the school community. This means supporting and encouraging the decision makers to make bold, ethical, and challenging decisions that prioritise student growth and educational excellence, even when those decisions require significant oversight or change.

As an experienced Project Manager, I bring direct expertise in strategic oversight, risk assessment, and ensuring successful delivery against clear targets. Governing a school is fundamentally about managing strategic projects—from financial planning and infrastructure development to curriculum evolution. I can contribute immediately by scrutinising budgets, monitoring the impact of strategic initiatives, and ensuring resources are allocated efficiently to meet the school's stated objectives. As the school embarks on ambitious building plans, this will be ever more important.

Furthermore, my time as an Employee Representative provides key experience in advocacy and balanced negotiation. This role required me to listen to diverse perspectives, translate complex organisational needs, and hold leadership accountable in a constructive manner. I understand the importance of clear communication between employees, leadership, and the governing body, ensuring that all voices are valued and represented in key decisions. I have the experience and determination to give a voice to all parents.

Finally, I approach governance with a critical but supportive outlook. I believe effective oversight is built on trust and professional scrutiny. I am prepared to ask challenging, evidence-based questions to stress-test proposals, but my intent is always to strengthen and empower the senior leadership team as it continues its trajectory of excellence for our children.

I would be honoured if you would consider my candidacy. Thank you. John.

2. Please detail any skills and experience you have that you feel would benefit the role of governor:

Project management, strategic oversight, budget management, employee rep, mental health first aider, relationship building, balanced negotiations, grievance management.

Margaret Antony

1. Please state briefly why you wish to be a governor:

I wish to be a governor at Reading School because I am passionate about education and committed to enhancing the quality of education through evidence-based strategies. I have both academic and practical experience in the field of education. I have specialised in Education Economics for my post graduate research degree and have over ten years of teaching experience in the UK higher education sector. I currently work at the Education development trust (edt) - a leading education charity, based in Reading.

My interest in education began as a Foundation Governor in a well-established school in Bromley, Kent, where I served in the Finance, Curriculum and Religion Committees. As Foundation Governor, I was closely involved in the formulation and implementation of the School Development Plan and in continuous improvement activities. I wish to take this experience further by being a Governor at Reading School.

As a parent of a student thriving at Reading School, I am eager to be more involved in the vibrant school community and uphold its exceptional standards. It would be a privilege to use my experience to support the school's vision and contribute to enhancing the student experience.

2. Please detail any skills and experience you have that you feel would benefit the role of governor:

I work at the Education development trust (edt), Reading, which is a leading education charity that invests in various educational initiatives in more than 100 countries across the world. I have been with the organisation for over 3 years and during this time I have been involved with different Teacher Development Programmes aimed at the continuous professional development of teachers and school leaders, in the country. I have an ardent interest in the field of education and in education policy. I have specialised in Education Economics for my post graduate research degree from the University of London. My thesis, 'An Economic Appraisal of Efficiency, Institutional Restructuring and Reform in English State Primary Schools', examines efficiency in resource use and allocation within state primary schools in terms of school inputs and 'test-score' output. I also undertake a policy evaluation and study the implications of the Academy Act 2010 in the primary school sector. I have been closely associated with the education sector, for the last fifteen years. I started as a Foundation Governor in a prominent school in Bromley, Kent, where I served in the Finance, Curriculum, and Religion Committees. As part of the Governing body, I have been involved in making evidence-based recommendations to inform strategic decision-making at the school. I also have over ten years of teaching experience in the UK higher education sector. I am adept in data analytics and data modelling and recently completed a Level 4 Data Fellowship Apprenticeship. I am very involved in the education of my two children and I am familiar with the UK school system, which additionally equips me for the role of Governor at Reading School.

Lakshmanan Kuppaswamy Chokkalingam

1. Please state briefly why you wish to be a governor:

I am keen to contribute my time and experience to help Reading School continue to excel in its mission to deliver high academic standards and nurture integrity and leadership. Having lived in Reading and been part of the local community for over 17 years, I am committed to supporting the school's long-term success.

I have previously participated in Reading School's Careers Convention and found it a highly rewarding experience, supporting students in shaping their future pathways. This further strengthened my desire to contribute more meaningfully to the school community.

Professionally, I have extensive experience in strategic planning, digital transformation, and stakeholder engagement, which I believe can add value to the governing board as it helps set direction, oversees performance, and supports school leadership. I would welcome the opportunity to promote the school's values of excellence, integrity, leadership, and community—strengthening partnerships and helping ensure all pupils have the opportunity to thrive.

2. Please detail any skills and experience you have that you feel would benefit the role of governor:

I have 25 years of experience delivering technology consulting services for the Energy and Utilities sector in the UK, Australia, and other geographies, providing a broad range of transferable skills relevant to the role of governor. I have led and managed multiple multi-year programmes, giving me strong experience in strategic planning, procurement oversight, commercial negotiation, and effective team collaboration. This background has equipped me with a solid understanding of how to deliver outcomes within agreed time, budget, and quality frameworks, and how to ensure appropriate governance is followed.

Over the last 10 years, I have worked with a wide range of local and international partners to build strategic alliances, develop commercial propositions, and strengthen business relationships — experience that I believe can support the school in engaging local businesses and exploring partnership or fundraising opportunities.

In the last five years, I have also been instrumental in developing in-house digital capabilities and delivering multi-million-pound programmes, further strengthening my skills in governance, risk management, supplier evaluation, and contract management.

On a personal front, I am a trained yoga teacher and have been practising yoga and meditation for over 17 years. This gives me a strong appreciation for the role of wellbeing, sports, and co-curricular activities in enabling students to thrive and helping the school fulfil its mission and values.