

Archibald First School
Archibald Street
Gosforth
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE3 1EB

Headteacher **Mrs R Turner**

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www.archibaldfirstschool.org.uk

Parent Governor Elections

October 2020

Supporting Statements from the nominated candidates

Anthony Atkinson

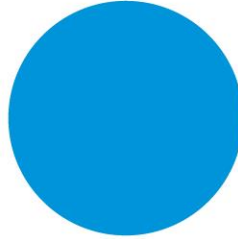
I am a lecturer (Associate Professor) in Psychology at Durham University. Originally from New Zealand, I have lived in the UK since 1993, in the northeast since 2003, and in Gosforth since 2011. My stepson (Elmo) attended Archibald 2010-2016. My wife and I very much like the school's ethos and vision, the nurturing environment and the education that its staff provide. We are therefore very pleased to have our son (Ned) start in Reception at Archibald this year. Although I have no previous experience as a school governor, I am keen to learn and I hope that my knowledge and experience as a university teacher and researcher and my administrative, committee and leadership experience in higher education will serve me and the Archibald Board of Governors well, should I be asked to join the Board. That experience has included being Director of Postgraduate Education and, more recently, Chair of the Board of Examiners, for the Psychology Department at Durham University. I welcome the chance to help the school to continue and improve its mission to provide an excellent, well-rounded education to the children of Gosforth.

Catherine Biggs

My name is Catherine Biggs and I am the parent of Elliot Wright in Class 5, Year 2. I am also a Professor at Newcastle University and the Director of Chemical Engineering. I am a strong advocate for learning as a positive vehicle for change, and I believe setting the foundations and getting it right at the beginning of formal education is absolutely essential. With over 20 years experience in Higher Education, including senior leadership roles, I have extensive experience in setting, delivering and evaluating organisational strategies and governance, which have a positive impact on student's learning and staff development. My ability to be decisive and accountable within a dynamic education environment is also enhanced by my sensible, practical problem solving, strong analytical and implementation skills. I am great listener and I am particularly proud of my enviable ability to build relationships and engender trust. I also have incredible personal resilience as I have supported my family through significant medical challenges. I therefore am really looking forward to working with the school and the parents to help ensure that our children achieve the best of their ability, and especially have fun doing it in a caring and supportive environment.

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James Clark

My son Lucian has just started Reception this year and I really feel passionate about helping Archibald to continue the fantastic work they currently do, while also supporting our school to identify and improve areas that require attention.

I've worked at the BBC for over 15 years in a variety of leadership roles and I'm currently a Senior Journalist working with communities, helping to set up partnerships, creative projects and supporting new talent. A crucial part of my role has been around communication, strategy and bringing hard to reach groups together to work towards a common goal. I feel these skills, my understanding of the media and experience of working with different sectors (charity, government, arts, industry etc.), would be valuable to our school and would bring a new perspective to the current board of governors.

Nick Rayner

My name is Nick Rayner and I am dad to Zac (Year 4) and Annalise (Year 1). Coming from parents who were both teachers, I have always understood the really important role that schools have in giving kids the best start in life. I have seen first-hand the way Zac has grown in confidence and abilities through his time at Archibald, and I would like to give back to the school and contribute in a more direct way. I feel that I can bring useful skills and experience to the role of parent governor, through what I have learnt from both my parents and my job.

By profession I am a chartered accountant and I work as an auditor, focussing on public sector bodies such as charities, local authorities and foundation trusts. I see a wide range of different organisations that operate in a similar way to a school, in that they are focused on delivering the best service and face similar challenges in relation to their finances, governance and processes. This would allow me to bring a slightly different experience to the role and share how they are addressing issues that are consistent across the public sector. Thank you

Katharine Taylor

As a parent of two children currently attending Archibald (Edward Y3, William N1), I have a vested interest in ensuring that the school continues to provide an excellent and well rounded education for the benefit of current and future pupils. As Edward has progressed through the school it has been a joy to watch him thrive and enjoy the learning process. It would be a privilege to be able to contribute to the governance of our school.

I am a lawyer at DAC Beachcroft LLP acting for local NHS Trusts. My role requires me to communicate effectively, plan, analyse data and recommend strategies, with the aim of obtaining the best outcome for my clients. I would welcome the opportunity to draw upon my professional experience of legal governance, and dealing with public sector clients, in order to add value to the school governing body.

I would always approach my role with a fundamental interest in the development of teaching and learning so that children of all abilities and backgrounds can realise their true potential. I believe in the transformative power of an outstanding education as well as the importance of parental participation in support of a successful school.

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