



Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to introduce myself as the new Chair of Governors. My name is Sarah Mansfield, and I have been serving on the governing board at Simon Balle for almost two years now, most recently as Vice-Chair. My background is as a teacher, with a particular focus on SEND, and I also serve as the SEND link Trustee across our MAT. I have two children, one of whom started at Simon Balle in September.

It is a privilege to serve such a dedicated and outstanding school. As an all-through school, supporting our students from Reception through to Year 13, we are uniquely placed to nurture, challenge and inspire each child at every stage of their educational journey.

I look forward to working closely with our exceptional staff, committed governors and, importantly, you as parents and carers, to ensure we continue to provide the highest standards of education, care and opportunity for all our students, working together to create tomorrow's citizens today.

I would also like to take this opportunity to invite you to become more involved in the life of our school community.

We are currently seeking to appoint three new governors to join our governing board. The board already benefits from a diverse range of perspectives, including current and former parents as well as members of the local community. You do not need to be a parent to apply; what matters most is an interest in education and a commitment to supporting young people.

Governors play a vital strategic role within the school. We work closely with the Co-Headteachers and wider leadership team to provide support, encouragement and constructive challenge. Our focus is on three key areas: setting the school's strategic direction, ensuring financial resources are used effectively, and holding school leadership to account.

No formal qualifications are required to become a governor. We are seeking individuals who demonstrate professionalism, a collaborative approach, and a genuine willingness to contribute.

We are especially keen to strengthen our governing body with experience in the following areas. If you, or someone you know, have a background in any of these, we would particularly welcome hearing from you:

- Finance
- Managing large budgets
- Construction
- Estate/premises management
- HR
- Health and Safety
- Legal understanding
- Risk management
- Data protection/cyber security

The role typically involves attending three full governing board meetings each year, alongside some additional subcommittee and link-role work, averaging around one hour per week across the academic year.



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Being a governor is a rewarding opportunity to make a meaningful difference to the education and experiences of young people in our school community. If you are interested, or would simply like to find out more, please do get in touch.

You can contact the governing body at: governingbody@simonballe.herts.sch.uk

I would be delighted to hear from you.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Mansfield

Chair of Governors

