



# ST. ANDREW'S CE (VA) INFANT & JUNIOR SCHOOLS



Lightcliffe Road  
Brighouse  
West Yorkshire  
HD6 2HH  
☎ (01484) 714964

Executive Headteacher: **Mrs Catherine Palmer**

Waterloo Road  
Brighouse  
West Yorkshire  
HD6 2AN  
☎ (01484) 712895

✉ [admin@st-andrews-inf.calderdale.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-andrews-inf.calderdale.sch.uk)

✉ [office@standrews.calderdale.sch.uk](mailto:office@standrews.calderdale.sch.uk)

## St Andrew's CE (VA) Infant & Juniors Schools

### Election of Parent Governors Ballot Form – Information for Parents

The following candidates have been nominated for parent governorship at this federation. The period of office will be for 4 years, unless the elected parent resigns within that period. Below is a brief statement written by each candidate in support of their nomination.

There is 1 vacancy. You may therefore vote for only 1 person. If you vote for more than the number of vacancies, the ballot paper will be declared void.

Please return the ballot form to the returning officer, Elaine Stollery, Clerk to Governors by email to [estollery@standrews.calderdale.sch.uk](mailto:estollery@standrews.calderdale.sch.uk) no later than **12 noon on Friday 15th May 2026**. Paper ballot papers can be collected from the offices at both schools if required. Only 1 vote per parent of a child attending the school is permitted.

Name of Candidate	Statement
Debra Nicholls	<p>I work as an Account Manager for a corporate insurance brokerage. In this role I manage relationships with a diverse portfolio of corporate clients, advise on risk and solutions, ensure regulatory and contractual compliance.</p> <p>I bring experience in management, finance, teamwork, decision making and high levels of customer service. I am a good listener and communicator which I believe will help in contributing to the future work of the board.</p> <p>I can commit time to attend meetings and happy to undertake relevant training to develop the skills required.</p> <p>As a parent with a child currently at the Infant School I understand the daily experience of families in the community and I would be able to make strategic decisions that are in the best interests of the school community.</p>
Emma Eliasz	<p>I have a strong commitment to supporting the school community and improving outcomes for all children. As a parent, I am particularly motivated to contribute positively to the school's development and to ensure that every child has access to a high-quality education in a safe and supportive environment.</p>





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	<p>I recognise that governing boards require a range of skills to deliver effective governance. I am confident that my existing skills – such as organisation, problem-solving and the ability to analyse information, will be valuable, and I am fully committed to building on these through any training opportunities provided.</p> <p>I am keen to develop a clear understanding of my responsibilities and although I have no previous experience working on a governing board, I am committed to learn, ask questions and work towards providing the best decisions for the school and the children who attend.</p> <p>I am aware of the requirement to attend meetings and visit the school. I do work full time for the emergency services, with varying shifts, however, I will make every effort to be available to attend as many meetings as possible.</p>
Lou Berry	<p>When I first visited St Andrew's as a pre-reception parent I was genuinely emotional. I felt immediately that this was a nurturing, supportive school but one with real ambition for itself and its pupils. Jo Swallow showed me round at a day's notice wearing a onesie, and I thought that set the tone perfectly. Someone who didn't take herself too seriously but was clearly proud of every corner of that school. That first impression has stayed with me.</p> <p>We chose St Andrew's because of its ethos and values, and everything I have seen and experienced since has reinforced that decision. I believe in what this school stands for and I believe in its potential.</p> <p>I have three children moving through St Andrew's, all with different personalities and needs, which gives me a broad and varied perspective of what the school offers and what children at different stages truly need. Not just academically but socially and emotionally too.</p> <p>Over the years I've spoken to staff about everything from behaviour and phonics to SEND, and in every case things have been handled honestly and openly. I've been a strong advocate for the school and its staff throughout, and I've always believed that honest, constructive challenge offered privately and in the right spirit is part of being a genuine ally to any organisation you care about. That's the approach I would bring to the governing board.</p> <p>I want to be part of supporting this school's continued growth and contributing to the best possible outcomes for every child here.</p> <p>I bring significant board and committee experience: as a board advisor on a government-backed scheme supporting high growth start-ups, Treasurer</p>





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of a Chamber of Trade, and Quality Assurance Manager on a BNI membership committee. Professionally I work as a fractional Marketing Director across several businesses and run three of my own. That breadth gives me hands-on experience of financial oversight, HR, health and safety compliance, operations and internal audit.

I have directly recruited and managed my own teams and supported other leaders through interviews, performance management, disciplinary processes and dismissal. I hold marketing and leadership qualifications and my work regularly involves change management, navigating transitions, maintaining stability and communicating clearly, both internally and externally, when things are uncertain. I work in an ever-evolving industry where technology, commercial needs and client demands move at pace, and as a result I am a committed lifelong learner, constantly growing my knowledge, undertaking CPD and staying at the forefront of marketing, business and emerging technology. I am confident I can contribute meaningfully to the Pay and Resources Committee and bring informed strategic scrutiny to board decisions that improve outcomes for every child.

I am passionate, eloquent and empathetic, with strong local connections and a genuine commitment to this community. As a self-employed business owner I have full control of my diary and, with reasonable notice, can make myself available for the vast majority of governing board dates and commitments. I am fully committed to undertaking any training required to be an effective governor from day one.

**PLEASE VOTE VIA THE FORM BELOW**



PROMOTING EXCELLENCE WITHIN A CARING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY



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<b>Name of candidate</b>	<b>Mark chosen candidate with an X below</b>
<b>Debra Nicholls</b>	
<b>Emma Eliasz</b>	
<b>Lou Berry</b>	

**DO NOT SIGN THIS FORM**

**NO DUPLICATE OF THIS FORM WILL BE ISSUED**



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