

Outstanding School Governor Awards 2018 Finalists Nomination Statements



Nominated Governor		Reasons For Nomination
Name:	Debbie Cole	<p>Debbie is an inspiring Governor. She leads panels with rigour and challenge, referring to her HR professional experience. As Link Governor for English she attends advisory meetings, Learning Walks and lesson observations. Debbie's expertise and sensitivity and has driven Howe Dell to <u>2 OUTSTANDING</u> Ofsted outcomes 2017, one for School and one for Day Care. Both moved from Good gradings.</p> <p>Attention to detail and determination to distribute leadership more widely across the FGB were applauded by Ofsted and SLT have thanked her for supporting the Head with some challenging issues, such as misuse of Face Book by a small group of very aggressive parents, involving the police. Whilst inspiring our FGB, 2 other schools have visited to learn from her successful leadership. Ofsted 2017 said:</p> <p><i>'Governors support and challenge the headteacher effectively. They know the school well...They make a valuable contribution to the ongoing development of the school.'</i></p> <p>Under Debbie's leadership specifically, Ofsted recognised that:</p> <p><i>'Governance has strengthened significantly since the last inspection. The governing body meets its responsibilities very well..'</i></p> <p>Her excellent interpersonal skills have enabled our FGB to restructure and receive reaccreditation from the Governor Mark:</p> <p><i>'The governing board have embedded, and refined, their `speed dating' process and ask specific questions around; evaluation of pupil progress, how vulnerable groups are catered for, how funding has been used and the assessment of its impact... Reports are produced that are consistent, comprehensive and informative.'</i></p> <p>She remains an absolute asset, not just to Howe Dell, but also Hertfordshire Governance.</p>
School	Howe Dell, Hatfield,	
Nominator		

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Name:	Jenny Howard	<p>Quite simply, Jenny has helped transform Tudor. She became the Chair very soon after my own arrival as Headteacher at a time when the school was in need of a real change- in systems and structures at a time when the capacity of the governing board (and members) was severely being tested.</p> <p>From the outset, her drive for success alongside her passion to build a sustainable governing board was evident. Strategies to support vulnerable learners as well as major overhauls to safeguarding systems were managed efficiently so Tudor could prove it was a school that met the needs of all those who came to school each day. Whilst it has been pleasing to receive praise from Ofsted and county advisors, Jenny's passion is driven by enabling Tudor to be a school of excellence.</p> <p>In 17 months, the school has undergone safeguarding reviews, projects for vulnerable learners as well as a £250000 school funded (and self-managed) hall extension project as well as review of governance which has set our collective vision for the future.</p> <p>Without Jenny Howard, I wonder if I would have made it through my first year of headship. She supported me, challenged me but, most importantly, inspired me to lead Tudor in the way it deserves.</p> <p>Jenny, due to a range of factors, has informed governing board that she is unable to continue as a governor. Whilst that decision is another challenge for Tudor, we are so much the stronger to move forward due to her legacy.</p>
School	Tudor Primary, Hemel Hempstead,	

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Nominated Governor		Reasons For Nomination
Name:	Paul Quinn	<p>I wish to nominate Paul Quinn following his nine years' outstanding service as our Chair of Governors.</p> <p>Paul is unwavering in his vision for education: that all children reach their academic potential, flourish as human beings and become socially conscious members of society. This passion for inclusion was instrumental in our expansion by admitting two bulge classes. Consequently, we transformed from a predominantly Catholic, white-British intake to a vibrant, multi-cultural school. Since academy conversion, Paul has also served on our MAT Board, championing all pupils, ensuring equity in provision and assisting schools requiring support.</p> <p>I am particularly grateful for Paul's personal support since my appointment as Headteacher, as I felt that having an experienced Chair would ameliorate my lack of experience. Paul willingly accepted the burden of a new Head because it was in the best interests of the children, despite his family commitments, full-time career and preparing for ordination as a deacon. This altruistic outlook meant that there was no period of unsettlement during the transition. Our trend of high pupil outcomes is testament to his unfailing support and willingness to 'nurture the nurturer' – supporting me to bring out the best in staff and pupils.</p> <p>St Catherine's has benefitted immensely from Paul's determination and drive – helping us set a firm, strategic course, while never overstepping the boundary into day-to-day management. It is rare to find someone who manages to balance strong leadership qualities with compassion and understanding. I hope that this nomination will be an inspiration to other governors.</p>
School	St Catherine of Siena Catholic Primary School, Watford	

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Nominated Governor		Reasons For Nomination
Name:	Sandra Barr	<p>Sandra Barr has served as a Governor for 35 years! This has included 6 schools and 34 years as the Chair at Larwood School. We are a special needs academy for pupils with social, emotional and mental health related issues.</p> <p>Sandra has been instrumental in the success of the school, which has included being outstanding (either day or residential) on four separate occasions. She worked tirelessly to enable two schools to become one, with the complications and challenges that such a process enviably involves. Her critical and challenging nature, alongside her immense support has enable many staff, including four Headteachers to ensure the school continues to flourish. During her time the school has expanded, practically doubling in size, and she has used her advocacy skills in the local community to promote and encourage local groups to interact with special needs pupils. The latter leading directly to visits and resources that the school would not have had if it were not for Sandra’s networking skills and advocacy. She is driven by a passion for pupils to succeed, in every sense. This is demonstrated by her weekly attendance at school (sometimes more than one visit), always attending pupil voice meetings and the numerous other events that take part in the life of a special needs primary school.</p> <p>Under Sandra’s leadership, governance has been focussed, driven and evolving to meet the changing needs of special needs pupils, over a 35-year period of time. A superstar!</p>
School	Larwood School, Part of Larwood Academy Trust,,Stevenage,.	

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Nominated Governor		Reasons For Nomination
Name:	Sharon Robson	<p>Under Sharon’s leadership, the governing body has undergone a significant transformation. From requiring a review of governance, the governing body is now a strength of the school. In our Ofsted report, this transformation was recognised, ‘Governors are highly effective in holding the school to account. They have an in-depth understanding of the school’s priorities and follow these up thoroughly to ensure improvement.’</p> <p>Sharon is focused on ensuring that the school provides the best for every stakeholder, making herself available to all members of the community. She is supportive of the school, but always challenges in a constructive manner. Although this has been a team effort, Sharon has introduced a new way of working so that all governors understand their role and are able to hold the school to account, through link visits, accessing a range of information about the school and asking challenging questions.</p> <p>Her ability to hold both supportive and difficult conversations means that all governors are clear as to; what their responsibilities are, what the role entails, the school’s vision and priorities for achieving that vision.</p> <p>All staff within the school consider Sharon to be open and approachable. There is a new and strong sense of team work within the school, rather than a ‘them and us’ attitude.</p> <p>As a link governor, Sharon ensures that she is knowledgeable with regard to her responsibilities. As the Headteacher, these link visits support and encourage so that we are able to reflect on actions taken, impact and next steps.</p>
School	St Paul’s Catholic Primary School, Cheshunt	

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Nominated Governor		Reasons For Nomination
Name:	Wendie Ray	<p>Wendie joined my governing body shortly after I took up my first headship and took over at Whitehill Junior School. It became clear from our very first meeting that her passion and drive to learn, understand and support me and the school was second to none. With a natural empathy, Wendie was able to take my 'scribbles' and 'dreams' based on a year's research and articulate the school's vision and core purpose which now sits as a golden thread running through the heart of the school. Recognised by Ofsted (June 2017), as a genuine aspect of the school's life any visit to the school starts with an explanation and discussion around this Core Purpose.</p> <p>Since this initial project and key part of the school's life, Wendie can often be found supporting the staff using her impressive emotional intelligence. From subtle correspondence which ignites a spark to vociferous support during a meeting to ensure an individual can shine and demonstrate their true ability, Wendie allows others to succeed and take the credit. Her motivation is clearly the success of others in the establishment she supports. Examples include ensuring we secured the PSQM-Gold Award in the Autumn Term.</p> <p>Wendie is my 'go to' governor. There is a natural and uncanny link between the two of us and I wholeheartedly believe she deserves the external recognition of this award. There are only so many ways I can say 'thank you' myself.</p>
School	Whitehill junior School, Hitchin	