

INTRODUCING HOMERTON'S GOVERNORS

Ken Ong – Chair of Governors & Lead Governor for Safeguarding

As a Professor at the University of Cambridge and Consultant Paediatrician in Cambridge, I have much experience of chairing committees at local, national and international levels, am kept up to date with latest issues and training in safeguarding children, and have research interests in early childhood growth and nutrition.

My four children had the good fortune to attend Homerton Nursery School, which gave them a great start on their educational journeys to become confident and inquisitive learners.

Tandy Harrison – Local Authority Governor & Chair of the Curriculum Committee

I trained as a primary teacher and taught locally for twelve years, spending four years teaching in a local authority nursery school in Cambridge. I later specialised in supporting children with additional needs, particularly those with severe communication impairment and/or autism. I set up and ran an autism outreach service for a local charity, supporting pre-school children and their families.

I have two children with additional needs and was chair of governors at a local special school for four years.

Roger Lilley – Co-opted Governor & Chair of the Resources Committee

I am a parent of former pupils at Homerton, a former parent governor and have been a local resident for 27 years.

I am a retired local primary school teacher and former staff governor with experience of assessment, performance management and Ofsted. I am treasurer of the local parish church, a member of the Parish Church Council and a local historian.

Alex Pearson – Head of Centre

I started my teaching career working in primary education in London. I then moved to Australia, and then Indonesia, where I worked in both primary and international schools as well as teaching English for the British Council.

I returned to Cambridge when I had my children, who both came to Homerton. I was very lucky to get a job teaching here thirteen years ago and became the Head in September 2018.

Rinchen Ato – Parent Governor

I am a Homerton alumnus myself and when my husband and I decided to start a family, I wanted to raise our children in Cambridge and I hoped very much that they would go to Homerton. Having been a pupil and now as a parent of children who have attended/are attending Homerton, I feel passionately that the nursery continues to thrive.

Most of my career to date has been as a Photographers' Agent. This diverse role involved: marketing photographers, developing their careers, budgeting and producing large scale shoots, implementing new social media platforms, editing existing website content and helping to develop new websites and recruiting staff. These skills have clear relevance to my role as a parent governor as I understand the importance of efficiency, team working, making budgets stretch to achieve the best possible results, and the importance of an organisation's reputation and image as projected both online and in the community.

Isa Garcia Crestani – Parent Governor

I was first involved with Homerton as a parent coming to Messy Play. My son is now at Homerton and I hope my daughter will start next year. I am an entrepreneur with a BA in Marketing and an EMBA in Fashion Businesses. I have worked for big retailers such as Revlon Cosmetics, Carrefour and the Walt Disney Company, in Latin America, Spain and the UK. I now run my own childrenswear brand, Yellow-Wagon, which sells knitwear handmade by women in Peru.

Kate Daenke – Parent Governor

I trained as an Adult Nurse and worked in the National Health Service for 11 years before having children. I bring to the role of governor many transferable skills learnt whilst working in the public sector, combined with a strong interest in Early Years Education and the well-being of children.

I have a historical connection with Homerton as former pupil myself, and a present connection as a mother of two children who have recently attended the Nursery School and a third who is hoping to attend in future.

Eirini Gkouskou – Parent Governor

My son currently attends Homerton.

I am a Senior Lecturer within the Early Childhood team of the University of East London and joined UEL in 2015. I previously worked as an academic, practitioner and manager in formal and non-formal museum organisations for more than 12 years. I hold a BA Hons in Early Childhood Education, an MSc in Natural Science Didactics, an MBA in Education Business Administration and a PhD from the University of Patras, Greece. I completed my PhD in

2014 and since then have been a Research Associate at the Department of Curriculum, Pedagogy and Assessment at the Institute of Education, University College London.

I am also an active member of GEM (Group for Education in Museums) and a Deputy Editor of the Journal of Education in Museums. I volunteer for the Powell Cotton and Quex Park Museum, where I have been a Trustee since 2013. I am a member of CASTME, an organisation passionate about furthering STEM-related education in its broadest sense for all.

Kay Blayney – Co-opted Governor

My connections with Homerton began back in the early 1990s when my three sons attended the nursery school. I was a parent governor and thoroughly enjoyed this experience, particularly supporting extra-curricular events and fund raising.

Now, some years on, I am back on the Governing Body. I am a qualified English and Drama teacher, have a Masters of Education in Educational Leadership and School Improvement, and have a strong belief in the value of 'learning through play', but also recognise the need for rigour and protocols for consistent school improvement.

Sameer Garyali – Co-opted Governor

I work full-time for GlaxoSmithKline, in Ware, as a Senior Engineering Project Manager where I manage multi-million pound budgets for projects, I line manage a team and I am also responsible for the site's recruitment process. I believe that my extensive experience of project and resource management is valuable to my role as a Governor at Homerton.

Mick Patel – Co-opted Governor

I became a co-opted governor when I was a sub-postmaster of a local post office. I was also a teacher for ten years in Cambridgeshire.

Having lived locally for 30+ years, I have many connections with the nursery and its community. My two boys attended the nursery and enjoyed their time at Homerton, and we also have many friends whose children attended Homerton Nursery School.

Mitali Peckham – Co-opted Governor

I trained as a primary teacher and taught for a number of years across the foundation stage. I currently teach a 2.5 day class at Homerton. In this role, I have trained student teachers and act as the Centre's lead for Information and Communications Technology and for pupil assessment.

My own four children attended Homerton Nursery School, so I also have much experience of a parent's perspective at Homerton.

Surabhi Singh – Co-opted Governor

My daughter currently attends Homerton and my son, now 13, also previously attended.

I am a General Practitioner partner and have experience in paediatrics. My job involves caring for children's physical and psychological health, along with supporting parents and families to fulfil their social and educational needs. I have extensive training in child safeguarding.

Sue Smith – Staff Governor

I have worked as a general teaching assistant and 1-1 teaching assistant at Homerton, and am now the Office Manager. I have NVQ level 3 qualification in Early Years Care and Education.