

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.

Isa Garcia Crestani – Parent Governor

I was first involved with Homerton as a parent coming to Messy Play. My son attended Homerton and now my daughter is currently going to Homerton every day, and like her brother, she absolutely loves it. 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. Due to Covid I had to close my handmade knitwear business (like many small businesses have had to), but that also has made me re-direct my passion for baking and catering, and has launched a Homemade Baking Business (Lima's Kitchen Homemade). I think that adaptability, being pro-active and always looking to innovate is a big part of who I am as a person, as a parent, and what I can also bring as a parent governor.

Stefania Deidda – Parent Governor

I'm a mother of three children who have all enjoyed attending the Homerton nursery.

I have a degree in marketing and communication from the University of Milano Bicocca and I worked as an event planner in my early career. I then moved on to be a wedding planner in Milan and Como, where I actually come from.

Thanks to my background in event planning, I'm hoping to suggest new ways of raising funds for the school. I also believe that my Italian heritage could contribute to decision making by providing a different view to the school.

Eirini Gkouskou – Parent Governor

I am an Academic of Early Years and Primary Education at the Institute of Education, University College London (IOE-UCL). Before joining the Department of Learning and Leadership at IOE UCL I was a Senior Academic at the University of East London and Manager at formal and non-formal educational organisations. I am an active member of GEM (Group for Education in Museums) and a Deputy Editor of the Journal of Education in Museums (JEM). Also, I am a member of CASTME, an organisation passionate about furthering STEM-related education in its broadest sense for all. I was fortunate for my son to join Homerton and explore play based learning with such amazing learning opportunities.

Amy Mehta – Parent Governor

I have taught years 2 to 4 in a diverse three form entry inner city London school, leading a year group and a subject (History) across the school. Prior to this, I worked as a Teaching Assistant with children aged 3 to 9 at a private Montessori school. I ran the after school and holiday club there, and also worked as a learning support assistant for two children with autism.

I feel passionately about the celebration of each individual, getting to know them, and supporting their individual needs. Having my own children (now 5 and 2) extended my experience of early child development further, and it is an area I find fascinating.

My 2 year old is currently in the Nest at Homerton.

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.