

INTRODUCING HOMERTON'S GOVERNORS

Ken Ong – Chair of Governors, Co-opted Governor & 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.

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.

Suzy Hughes – Staff Governor

I have worked at Homerton since 2005 in various administrative roles including lunch supervision, Children's Centre Business Support Administrator and have run a Messy Play Group. I have worked in the main office for the last four years before taking up the post of Office Manager. Prior to Homerton, I have worked as a Personal Assistant and taught IT at evening class.

I have two beautiful daughters in their 20's, one of which was lucky enough to attend Homerton.

I am passionate about the care of the children at Homerton and the motivation and happiness of my colleagues.

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.

Amani Maihoub – Parent Governor

I am Syrian-British and have lived, studied, and worked in many countries. My professional experiences include working in teaching, research, and the cultural and creative sectors. I am passionate about advocating for learning through play and incorporating music, art, children's literature, gardening, and PE into the early years curriculum. I believe in integrating children with complex medical and special educational needs into mainstream educational settings and encouraging children to be compassionate, curious, aware, and courageous. Preventing and dealing with bullying behaviours at an early age is important to me. Homerton has been a home away from home for our child. My aim as a Parent Governor is to build on the excellent work the staff has been doing to help further the education and well-being of all the children at Homerton.

Rob Payne – Parent Governor

I live locally and am the Archivist/Historian at Addenbrooke's Hospital. I have a daughter who is in the West Room and who was previously in the Nest and a son who will hopefully join Homerton in the next few years.

We have had exceptional support from Homerton and I would like to contribute to the Centre's work. My daughter has additional educational needs, which is one of the reasons my wife and I chose Homerton for her: the provision at the Centre is excellent and the support that we have received since she has been there has been outstanding. I believe that my experience of navigating the, not always straightforward, world of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities might add something to the Governing Body. I have always believed in inclusive education and would like to work with Homerton while the Centre continues to provide an accepting and adaptable learning environment for all.

Bernie Cafferkey – Co-opted Governor

I trained as a primary school teacher with a specialism in Early Years. I have also completed the National Award in Special Educational Needs Co-ordination (NASENCO) and more recently passed the National Professional Qualification for Senior Leadership (NPQSL). I currently teach East Blue and Purple class and am the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo) for Homerton alongside being one of Homerton's Designated Persons for Child Protection and Domestic Abuse Leads.

Two of my children had a great start to their journey in education at Homerton and I first joined the staff team in 2004.

Isa Garcia Crestani – Co-opted 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.

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.

Elizabeth Head – Co-opted Governor

As a parent of two children who have recently attended Homerton Early Years Centre, I am keen to continue my connection with the nursery and support it in its role of providing such an amazing start to a child's educational journey. My career as an Occupational Therapist has required me to develop good communication and team working skills which I feel will be helpful as I become part of the Governing Body 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 – Associate Member

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.