

Michelle Catterson

I am Headteacher of an Independent Dyslexia Specialist school in Surrey, which is also governed by a Board of Trustees, therefore I am very familiar with how a Trustee should act in the best interests of the Charity that it represents.

I have detailed knowledge of how the board of Trustees should conduct themselves and also the necessity to adhere to the legal requirements of being a Trustee. In addition to my role as Headteacher I am also a Governor for my local State primary school and sit on the Quality and Standards committee.

My understanding of Education and how things work within the classroom setting is extremely strong in both Independent and State sector schools. I also have previous engagement with the BDA attending the APPG's and also contributing to the report on the Impact of Education in 2019 along with 2 others. I am extremely passionate about ensuring that every child has access to Education.

In my role as Headteacher each day I strive to ensure that each pupil in my school has their needs met, their confidence boosted and the support in place that they deserve. My school has been on a huge journey in the past 2 years, from our lowest pupil numbers and threats of closure to now at full capacity with waiting lists, demonstrating the need for this type of specialist teaching for our Dyslexic learners. Our EHCP numbers have also doubled in the past 2 years and It is a personal goal of mine to be able to offer full bursaries and financial support for families who need us as I strongly believe that affordability should not be a reason that prevents a pupils from having the education they need. (Approximately 50% of the pupils at my school are in receipt of LEA funding through having an EHCP).

We are a member of CRESTED and I am currently undertaking my Level 5 qualification with the BDA too which I am doing in my own time in order to further my knowledge and understanding of my pupils and to better meet their needs. I am very familiar of the needs of a Dyslexic child and their co-occurring difficulties. As Headteacher I still teach in my school which gives me a first hand and up to date experience of how the pupils are

accessing the curriculum and the difficulties they may face. I am also fully aware of the needs of Dyslexic pupils in terms of Speech and Language and OT and indeed that there may be an overlap with other associated conditions such as ADHD, ASD, Dyspraxia and Dyscalculia.

I am passionate about making an impact and to supporting the BDA as best I can. I have attended all of the APPG's since being invited and if I were fortunate enough to be appointed as a Trustee I would undertake this role with great professionalism as an advocate of the work of the BDA and the support that it provides.

As a Headteacher of a school which is a registered Charity, I am fully aware of the responsibilities with regards to the Charity Commission and would ensure that my support at the BDA board acted within the regulatory compliance for the Charitable status.

As a Teacher I am aware of the need to represent my organisations professionally to ensure that they are always seen in the best light. I do this daily as a Governor and also as Headteacher.

If I were appointed as a Trustee, I would ensure that I supported the BDA through attending all meetings, events and representing the charity wherever required. I hope from reading my statement you will appreciate that my professional experience could add value to the board at the BDA but also from my own time out with my professional role; in completing the report for the BDA, attending the APPG's and in also undertaking further training to enhance my understanding of the needs of dyslexic pupils.

I am exceptionally committed and passionate about anything that I decide to put myself forward for and this would be the same for the role as Trustee for the BDA. I take all commitments that I make very seriously and ultimately, I have applied for this role as I want to make a difference and to support the BDA and the families that it represents.

Thank you for considering my application