

The City of Edinburgh Council

10.00am, Thursday 25 August 2022

Appointment of Religious Representatives to the Education, Children and Families Committee

Item number	
Executive/routine	Executive
Wards	All
Council Commitments	

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 To confirm the appointment of Fiona Beveridge as the Church of Scotland Representative to the Education, Children and Families Committee, term of office to run from 25 August 2022 to 30 April 2027.
- 1.2 To confirm the appointment of Angela Campbell as the Roman Catholic Representative to the Education, Children and Families Committee, term of office to run from 25 August 2022 to 30 April 2027.
- 1.3 To appoint the third religious representative to the Education, Children and Families Committee, terms of office to run from 25 August 2022 to 30 April 2027.

Richard Carr
Interim Executive Director of Corporate Services

Contact: Matthew Brass, Committee Services
Legal and Assurance Division, Corporate Services Directorate
Email: matthew.brass@edinburgh.gov.uk

Appointment of Religious Representatives to the Education, Children and Families Committee

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report recommends that a nominated representative from the Church of Scotland, Roman Catholic Church and from a church or other denominational body with a place of worship within the City of Edinburgh are appointed to the Education, Children and Families Committee for the duration of the Council term, until 30 April 2027.

3. Background

- 3.1 The legislation stipulates that the Church of Scotland and the Roman Catholic Church shall each nominate one representative. In selecting the third religious representative, the Council “shall have regard ... to the comparative strength within their area of all the churches and denominational bodies having duly constituted charges or other regularly appointed places of worship there.”
- 3.2 The Religious Representatives are members of the Education, Children and Families Committee when it discharges education functions only.
- 3.3 The appointment of the religious representatives will be conditional upon confirmation that they will comply with the Councillors’ Code of Conduct and on membership of the Protection of Vulnerable Groups Scheme.

4. Main report

- 4.1 Nominations have been received directly from the Church of Scotland and Roman Catholic Church. Nominations have been sought by public notice for the third representative.
- 4.2 The following nominations were received:

Church of Scotland and Roman Catholic Church

Nominated by	Name
Church of Scotland	Fiona Beveridge
Roman Catholic Church	Angela Campbell

Third Religious Representative

Nominated by	Name
Edinburgh Interfaith Association	Dr May Ruhiyyih Parris
Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland	Reverend David Campbell

4.3 Further information is included in the nomination forms for each of the Third Religious Representatives at Appendices 1-2.

4.4 Other than the Church of Scotland and the Roman Catholic Church, the most recent information on the number of churches with two or more constituted charges within the City is as follows: -

	Number of Constituted charges
Scottish Episcopal Churches	26
Edinburgh and Lothians Baptist Association	11
Congregational Union of Scotland	7
United Free Church of Scotland	3
Forth Valley Methodist Circuit	2
Salvation Army	4
Edinburgh City Mission	3
Church of Christ of Latter-Day Saints	3
Edinburgh Elim Churches	3
Free Church of Scotland	3
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)	3
Spiritualists' National Union	2
The Sikh Community	2

Others have only one constituted charge.

4.5 The Council is asked to take this information into account in considering the appointment of the third religious representative.

5. Next Steps

5.1 The Religious Representatives will be included in the membership of the Education, Children and Families Committee.

6. Financial impact

6.1 The Religious Representatives will be able to claim travel expenses and subsistence for attendance at meetings

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

7.1 None

8. Background reading/external references

8.1 None.

9. Appendices

9.1 Appendix 1 - Nomination Form – Dr May Ruhyyih Parris

9.2 Appendix 2 - Nomination Form – Reverend David Campbell

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THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

The Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973
The Local Government Etc (Scotland) Act 1994
Nomination Form for Religious Representative to serve on
the Education Committee of the City of Edinburgh Council

May 2022 to April 2027

Please ensure that the Nominating Body and Nominee have read the notes overleaf and that the submission of the nomination confirms compliance with them.

**Full Name and
Address of
Nominee**

Dr May Ruhiyyih Parris (Dr Ruhy
Parris).....

... [Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted].....
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**Name and Address of Church
or Denominational Body**

Edinburgh Interfaith Association (EIFA)
c/o Mayfield Salisbury Parish Church
18 West Mayfield
Edinburgh
EH9 1TQ

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Supporting Statement by Church or Denominational Body (continue on a separate sheet if necessary):

Dr Ruhy Parris serves as a member of the Board of the Edinburgh Interfaith Association. She has previously served as Secretary and as Co-Convenor of the Association. She is

a member of the Edinburgh Baha'i Community, currently serving as the Secretary of its Spiritual Assembly. Dr Parris is a retired Consultant in Anaesthesia and Pain Management. Following retirement she completed a MSc in Persian Civilisation at the University of Edinburgh in 2019, and also worked as a Persian language tutor in the Department of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies (2020). This recent experience as a student and staff member at university gave her current insight into the pressures faced within the education system.

She is of Iranian heritage, brought up bilingually, born in Manchester, and has lived in Scotland for forty years.

In her medical career she has encountered and worked with asylum seekers, refugees, and survivors of trauma.

She is the mother of three adult children, and a grandmother of three (one in primary, one in nursery, and the other in childcare).

She served as a school governor (2019 – 2022), being a member of the Court of Directors of The Edinburgh Academy. Whilst a governor, she served on the Learning & Teaching Committee.

In her professional life and faith based activities she is accustomed to working with people from diverse backgrounds, cultures, ages and faith/beliefs.

Edinburgh Interfaith Association supports her nomination as a Religious Representative to serve on the Education Committee of the City of Edinburgh Council (May 2022 to April 2027).

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Iain Stewart

Executive Director

Edinburgh Interfaith Association

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Notes – see overleaf.

Notes

- 1) Employees of the City of Edinburgh Council cannot be appointed as a member of a Council Committee therefore the nomination of such a person cannot be accepted.
- 2) The successful representative of religious interests will be expected to sign an undertaking that they agree to be bound by the Councillors Code of Conduct.
- 3) Appointment will be subject to a satisfactory disclosure check by Disclosure Scotland under the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Scheme.
- 4) The Council has reviewed its political management arrangements after the elections in May 2017 and a third representative will be required for the Committee dealing with education matters.
- 5) The completed form must be scanned and emailed to committee.services@edinburgh.gov.uk by **Friday, 15 July 2022**.

All nominating bodies and nominees are deemed to have understood these notes and agree to abide by them.

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THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

The Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973
The Local Government Etc (Scotland) Act 1994
Nomination Form for Religious Representative to serve on
the Education Committee of the City of Edinburgh Council

May 2022 to April 2027

Please ensure that the Nominating Body and Nominee have read the notes overleaf and that the submission of the nomination confirms compliance with them.

Full Name and Address of Nominee

REV DAVID CAMPBELL

[REDACTED ADDRESS]

Name and Address of Church or Denominational Body

FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

63 GILMORE PLACE

EDINBURGH

EH3 9NU

Supporting Statement by Church or Denominational Body (continue on a separate sheet if necessary):

MR CAMPBELL IS THE MINISTER OF THE EDINBURGH CONGREGATION,

AND HAS BEEN FOR NINE YEARS, AND A MINISTER OF THE

FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND FOR MORE THAN

TWENTY YEARS. HE HAS A WIFE AND A FAMILY OF SIX

CHILDREN AND HAS CURRENT EXPERIENCE OF NURSERY,

PRIMARY, SECONDARY, AND UNIVERSITY EDUCATION, CONTINUED

ON A SEPARATE SHEET.

Notes – see overleaf.

Supporting statement - continued

The congregation of which he is pastor is gathered from the whole of Edinburgh City Council area and from Midlothian, and so parents and families in the congregation, from a wide variety of school and nursery settings, are directly impacted by Council decisions and as third representative Mr Campbell would be informed by real-life experience of the Education provision.

Mr Campbell was a third representative on the Education and Children's Services Committee of Western Isles Council (CNES) for 10 years between 2003 and 2013 and chaplain of local schools in Lewis, and has already joined the PVG scheme for this purpose.

He has additional interest in Christian Education and spoke at an International Christian Education Conference in Apeldoorn, The Netherlands, in 2018 and has contacts with several international Christian Education providers, including at Secondary and University level. International educational provision of interest to the Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland includes a large and highly successful Secondary School in Zimbabwe and long experience in supporting primary education in that country.

Mr Campbell is presently engaged in chaplaincy work at small independent Christian schools in Edinburgh and has special interest in Bible distribution to schools in Scotland through an international Bible Society. He would be especially interested to promote Bible knowledge as an educational resource and a key tool for literacy improvement in Edinburgh schools.

Mr Campbell is fully acquainted with the relevant terms of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980, and with the more recent Religious Observance guidance and resources. He was actively involved in the preparation of policies for RO and their practical implementation at Local Authority level when first introduced. He firmly believes in freedom for Christian worship and religious expression by pupils and staff within the school environment. He would promote voluntary Christian worship assemblies and acts of worship in Religious Observance within the legal framework as a Christian minister.