

Our Governing Body

Philippa Whittington – Chair of Governors

I was originally appointed in 2003 by the Diocese. I am married with one son, 2 stepsons and 3 grandchildren and while now retired, I spent 40 years working in the IT industry. My education was an important part of my life and I see my work as a governor as a way of repaying that to the community. I believe that everyone has the ability to succeed in something in their life and helping children identify this should be one of the underlying targets in education.

Peter Blackmore – Vice Chair and Chair of Management Committee

Peter has been a PCC appointed Governor for many years. As Chartered Engineer for over forty years he has maintained his own continuous professional development and coached and mentored young engineers joining his Consultancy Practice. He has recently stepped down as Chairman of his Practice and entered semi-retirement; married with four children and one granddaughter he believes that local primary education is key to providing a good start in life.

Pat Wisby – Foundation Governor

Pat has been a Foundation governor since October 2013. Married with 2 sons and 1 grandson, she moved to Clifton in 2006. She is a retired secondary school teacher of Maths and IT and was also a Head of Department and Year Head before becoming a Deputy Head. Keenly interested in all aspects of education, Pat wants to contribute to the local community through her educational involvement with Clifton All Saints Academy.

Ray Watson - Foundation Governor

I volunteered as a governor and was appointed in December 2013. I had a full career in HM Coldstream Guards retiring as a Major in 1997. I have lived in the village for about 12 years and saw the opportunity to assist in the life of the village by becoming a school governor, bringing with me years of administrative and logistical experience. After two years in the post I feel that I have become much more familiar with the whole process of governorship and will continue to develop my ability by attending relevant training courses in order to become as effectual as possible

Kathryn Ward – Parent Governor

I have been a Parent Governor since June 2012. Both my children went to All Saints and are both now at Henlow Academy, my youngest going up this September. Since Daniel, my eldest, first started in Robins, I have enjoyed taking an active part in school life, as a parent helper, helping on the PTA and now working in the school, teaching maths in small groups. I was a primary school teacher for 12 years before having my children and feel I have some understanding of the challenges in education and the role of the Governing Body as well as school management. I am now working in both All Saints and a high school in Luton doing maths intervention work. In the past few years, I have marked optional SAT papers for English and have lead sessions for school groups within Luton museums. I am extremely enthusiastic about the education offered to children at All Saints and I love working within the school environment.

Paul Hayward – Parent Governor

Paul was elected as a Parent Governor in November 2010. He is the father of Alex (who has recently left All Saints), Evie and Oscar (in Swallows and Puffins), so he will have a general interest in the school, the curriculum, facilities and activities for some years to come. Paul is a Chartered Engineer, who has worked in the offshore oil industry for the past 25 years. Currently Paul is based in Central London. Coming from a technical background, the practical and technical aspects of education will be a focus area, and having come through a traditional education, Paul is also particularly keen on

the teaching of the educational basics - the old 3 R's – and the broader curriculum. He would like to put some of his experience back into the system to benefit the next generation.

Jean Peacock—Diocesan Governor

I was appointed as a School Governor in December 2014. I live in Clifton and I have a son and a daughter who are married. I have four grandchildren one of whom attended Clifton All Saints Academy until she left to go to Middle School in July.

I have spent my working life in Education and have taught in a variety of different Lower Schools in Bedfordshire. I became a Deputy Headteacher in 1996 and a Headteacher in 2002. I retired from my post as Headteacher in July 2010 but I wanted to continue my involvement with a profession which I have loved. After retirement, I worked as a Link Tutor with the University of Bedfordshire, supporting and advising trainee teachers until June 2014.

I hope I can use my past experience to play an active and supportive part in the life of Clifton All Saints Academy.

Katy Evans-Skinner—Foundation Governor from August 2015

I am married with one son and have lived in the village for over 8 years. I attend the local church services as well as messy church with my family and so have an interest in supporting the local community. I work at the EDT (Engineering Development Trust), which is an educational charity aimed at inspiring young people into courses and careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM). I joined the EDT in 2009 developing and running all aspects of the First Edition Scheme resulting in growth and participation to over 28,000 young people in 5 years. A major initiative that I introduced to First Edition is the STEM Family Challenge, which brings families together with higher education and local industry. Prior to the EDT, I worked with the IET managing the Faraday Programme involving the running and launch of the 'Faraday Challenge Days' which provided specialised STEM activities to young people to engage them in STEM subjects. Prior to this, I worked with Business Link London providing support and information to help people start, develop and grow their own business. In September 2014, I joined the Industrial Cadet team at EDT as Operations Manager leading a team of 8 Area Managers across the country, to support young people in achieving an industry led accreditation that is inspired by the Prince of Wales, through STEM related experiences at companies. Through my experience, knowledge and passion in this sector I am aware of the challenges that schools currently face and I am looking forward to contributing and supporting Clifton All Saints Academy as it grows and develops over the coming years.

Carol Ward - Head Teacher

I took up the post of Head Teacher at Clifton All Saints Academy in September 2013. Previous to that I was Assistant Head Teacher at Gothic Mede Lower School in Arlesey, having taken up the post of Senior Teacher there in September 2004. I qualified as a teacher in 1981, but chose to delay my teaching career and learn a little about the world of work outside of education, as well as getting married and having a family. I have two sons aged 30 and 28, and a husband who works in IT. We have lived in Sandy for 28 years, having both been brought up in Hitchin. I studied Music as my specialism at college, having been part of the Herts County Youth Choir and Orchestra from the age of 14. I play the piano and cello and am currently trying to find the time to learn the flute and clarinet. I enjoy all aspects of developing children learning through a variety of experiences and but particularly enjoy seeing them develop and flourish through the medium of Performing Arts. I am really looking forward to taking the school forward and developing what is already a wonderful community and learning environment, and being part of a centre of excellence within the community of the village of Clifton.

Jayne Dutson-Steinfeld - Deputy Head and Chair of Development Committee

My name is Jayne Dutson-Steinfeld and I have been a member of the governing body since 2010. I am currently Deputy Head and Kingfishers Class Teacher. I have 5 children of my own and 1 granddaughter. I lived and worked in Germany for 10 years and speak German. I have lived in Clifton now for 24 years. I am Early Years trained and I specialised in French. I am a registered dyslexic teacher and have completed a course as an Associate Member of the Institute of Linguists. My other interests are in music and sport and I currently play cornet in a local band and trumpet in a large concert band in Essex. I enjoy sports and used to play badminton regularly, I now love watching sport and walking my dog! I have been teaching at All Saints' Lower for 15 years, most of which has been in the Foundation Stage. Before this I was involved in adult education and supply teaching all over Bedfordshire. I love working with the children, seeing them develop as learners and as members of the community. I am working as part of the governing body to ensure the best possible experiences and provision for our children.

Justine McCarthy – Non teaching staff governor

I have worked at Clifton All Saints Academy since September 2001. Like a few of our staff I initially started as a Mum help and then worked part time as a Learning Support Assistant in years 1-2 until September 2003. During this time, I was an active member of the PTA and enjoyed supporting the school and my two children who both attended All Saints. They are now 20 and 17 so a few years have passed!

Before my life at All Saints I worked in HR and accountancy for a Fibre Optic Company. I then supported my husband who ran his own business for 10 years; this allowed me to be a full time Mum for 6 years which I thoroughly enjoyed.

Life in the office started as a part time position alongside Mrs Evans. The role over the years has increased dramatically with the Local Authority passing on far more responsibility on to schools and then the conversion to Academy Status in October 2013. My role now involves all HR, finance, facilities management and anything else that is thrown my way! I am also a member of the senior management team. I enjoy my role in school and despite being based in the office I do try and interact with the children as much as possible. This includes attending the year 4 annual PGL trip for the past 6 years and popping into the classrooms when I can, to see what the children are doing. I have been on the Governing Body on and off for the past 9 years (I had a 2 year break): this was to enable me to complete a 2 year City and Guilds Photography Course, as photography is a hobby of mine.

I feel my knowledge of the school, being a parent and a member of the local community for over 40 years puts me in a good position to support all of the stake holders in decisions that are made and discussed at Governors. Clifton All Saints Academy is a lovely school, which we are lucky to have in our village.

Nicola Kumaran – Clerk

Having worked in adult education for over ten years I was excited to begin training as a primary school teacher in 2011. However, I had to defer the course on the birth of my daughter the following year. Taking on the role as Clerk to the Governors has allowed my continued involvement in primary education and enabled me to keep abreast of the continued changes and demands made on schools. As a Clifton resident it is a pleasure to work so closely both with the school governors and the school community as a whole.