

Governor Profiles

Mrs. Yvonne Bennetts - LA Governor. Chair of Governors

I have been a Fairford Primary School Governor since 2007. I have been a member of Staffing and Standards Committees and then Chair of Quality & Standards and member of Strategy Committee. I am currently Chair of Governors. I have had other governor experience working for over 2 years on an IEB (Interim Executive Board), gaining valuable experience in HR issues. Most of my career was in teaching with particular interest in assessment, teacher training and educational research. I am passionate about education and providing young people with all round education and life skills for the 21st Century. I feel privileged to work with Fairford Primary School staff and governors who all share the same commitment to providing exciting and stimulating learning and high achievement for all.

Mrs. Ruth Bartholomew – Co-opted Governor. Vice Chair of Governors, Chair of Quality & Standards

I am a mum of three children. Our eldest started at Fairford Primary in 2008 and our youngest will finish in 2022! I am a primary school teacher myself and I'm married to a Headteacher. Both my parents were teachers and so you could say that teaching and a close association to school is very much integral to my family! I became a governor in July 2010 and have been Vice Chair of Governors and Chair of the Quality and Standards Committee since September 2012.

In my spare time I love baking!

Mrs. Christine Blackwell - Co-opted Governor. Chair of Resources Committee

My career had been long and varied: from horticultural research to Information Officer in a Food Processing factory in Australia; teaching Economics and Business Studies in secondary school; fulltime trade union representative and finally working in the Education Department of a nearby Local Authority until my retirement. I have been a governor at the school since 1st June 2006 and most of that time as Chair of the Resources Committee. During this time I have worked with two Business Managers and two Head teachers. Ensuring the schools budget is spent to provide the highest level of resources to allow teachers to give their best teaching and for children to reach their potential in a stimulating environment is always challenging but very rewarding. I am also subject link Governor for History and Geography and Governor representative on the Eco Committee where I get great enjoyment observing how the children learn.

Mrs. Caroline Sherer – Co-opted Governor. Chair of Strategy Committee

My involvement with Fairford Primary School began when my daughter Rose joined the school in 1997. I initially became a parent governor and served 8 years in that capacity and then, when my son Jack left for secondary school, I was an associate governor for a year before being a community governor. My current role is as a Co-opted Governor. I am a member of the Quality and Standards Committee as well as Strategy. Until 2008 I was a practicing solicitor and have since re-trained as a teacher.

Mr. Richard Wathen - Co-opted Governor

I chose to become a LEA Governor at Fairford Primary School in 2011, having been a parent Governor at a previous school. I am married, two of my children have already been taught in Fairford Primary School and the other is currently in KS2. I am now a Co-opted Governor and I sit on the Resources Committee. This committee sets and monitors the school budget and

we also undertake the duties of ensuring the school site has all the services it requires to operate. Due to my experience within the RAF I am the Health and Safety Governor. My passion is Science and naturally I became the Science link Governor. I am passionate to help the school continue to be a place where children are safe and happy to learn.

Rev. Caroline Symcox - Ex-officio. Chair of Christian Values Committee

I moved to Fairford in October 2014 to take up my post as Team Vicar in the South Cotswolds Team Ministry with particular responsibility for Fairford. I was ordained in Oxford in July 2011, and served my curacy in Amersham, Buckinghamshire for three and a half years. This role included close involvement with the two Church of England schools in the parish, which I greatly enjoyed. Before ordination I studied theology at Keble College, Oxford at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels before beginning a career in publishing. As a priest, theologian and mother, I am committed to ensuring that our staff, pupils and parents are fully supported as we shape our school into a place founded on Christian values, which encourages the very best from our children and community.

Mrs. Ruth Beckett - Foundation Governor

I have lived in Fairford for over 40 years and am a member of St Mary's Church. I attended both Fairford Primary School and Farmors School. I worked for ten years with children age 2 to 4 years and now work for the NHS at the local cottage hospital. My interests are family, reading and singing with 'A Splash of Red' ladies choir. Fairford Primary School and its reputation is very important to me as it has always been a part of my life and now I would like to put some thing back into the school by assisting on the Governing Body. I am also a member of the Quality & Standards and Resources Committees and sit on the Christian Values Committee

Mrs. Anne Smith - Foundation Governor

My late husband and I bought a house in Fairford for our retirement in 2013, but I have worked in Fairford for over 10 years for an Educational Charity. I am a qualified Forest School Leader, which teaches the educational curriculum in an outside environment. I have been clerk to Fairford Primary School Governors for the past ten years and have also clerked for the Governors at another local school during that time. I attend St Mary's Church Fairford and am secretary for the PCC. I have five grandchildren between the ages of 2 and 13 years so am very interested in the younger generation, their education and training for life in the future.

Mrs. Alison Jackson - Parent Governor

I started my term as a Parent Governor in September 2012. I live in Fairford with my husband and two children who attend our school. My career is in financial services and I currently work part-time in project management. I am a member of the Resources Committee and am keen to give a parental perspective to discussions and decisions made at our school to ensure its continued success and allow our children to be the very best they can be.

Mrs. Rachael Turpin – Parent Governor

I became a Parent Governor in September 2015, the year my eldest started at Fairford Primary. Her siblings will start in 2017 and 2019 so for me, committing to helping with the success of their school is key. We moved to Fairford in 2014 as we appreciated the strong sense of community and felt that it was an idyllic place to bring up our young family. Prior to moving here I was a Secondary English teacher for a decade in an outstanding state school. I

led KS3 English provision and mentored new and training teachers. Currently I am taking a break while my three children are small but my interest in high quality education for all still stands. I am active as a Primary School Governor and as part of the Committee at Fairford Pre-school.

Mrs. Harriet Cornell - Parent Governor

I started as Parent Governor in November 2015. I have two children at Fairford Primary School, both in Key Stage 2. I am a qualified accountant and worked in finance in the retail industry for 12 years before moving to Fairford 6 years ago. I now work as a School Business Manager at a primary school in Oxfordshire. I am a member of the Resources Committee. In my role as parent governor I want to support the school and ensure it continues to be a successful, happy place for children to learn.

Mrs. Bethan Hooper - Parent Governor

I started my term in office this year and feel privileged to be a part of the governing body. I am committed to helping Fairford Primary continue to improve and ensuring that it continually strives for excellence. I have a daughter in the school and a son who will join in a few years time. I am passionate about education and believe that all children should receive the highest possible standards of teaching, whatever their age or ability. I am looking forward to working with a Governing Body and Staff team that obviously share these ideals and hope to support the school in any way that I can.

MRS. Julie Fellows - Ex-officio. Head Teacher Fairford C. of E. Primary School

Miss. Jodie Lea - Staff Governor

I fell in love with teaching whilst teaching English in Seville, Spain and therefore returned to England in order to gain experience in a primary setting as a teaching assistant. I began teaching at Fairford in 2014 and am extremely proud to be part of such a supportive and passionate team. I applied to be a governor as I was keen to take on more responsibility and gain a wider perspective of the running and needs of the school. Being a governor is a rewarding experience and I enjoy meeting with people who are passionate about providing the best possible school experience for our pupils. I currently sit on the strategy committee and am the art and design link governor.

Mr. Ben Preece Smith - Associate Member on the Strategy Committee and attending Full Governing Body meetings

I currently have three children and three nephews at Fairford C. of E. Primary School. Prior to being an Associate I was Foundation Governor for seven years. I am the Diocesan Secretary for Gloucester working for Bishop Rachel and my responsibility covers roughly the same area as the County and includes oversight of various departments including Finance, Property, HR, Safeguarding, Communications, Education and Mission. I am a Chartered Accountant and have previously been Head of Finance for Christian Aid and worked in takeovers for KPMG London. I am or have been a trustee for various charities.