

Governors 2019-20



Claire Sinclair

Co-Opted / Parent Governor (Chair of Governors)

I have been a governor of St Oswald's since September 2017 and Chair of Governors since September 2019. I originally joined the governing body because I was new to the area and with my eldest child having recently joined Reception, I wanted to get to know the school better and use some of my experience to provide whatever support I could. Now that I am a few years into the role I have really enjoyed forging a good working relationship with the school and being a governor is a role that I find interesting and rewarding.

During my time on the governing body we have seen a lot of change. I was part of the interview panel that appointed the current headteacher, I supported the school during two Ofsted inspections and took part in the decision to terminate the process towards academisation of the school. During my first year as Chair of Governors the Covid-19 pandemic struck and during this period I adopted a hands-on, pragmatic approach to supporting the school as needed during an uncertain and turbulent period. I am currently a lecturer at The York Management School at The University of York and prior to that I spent 15 years working in management consulting.

I am on the school playground at drop off and pick up most days, so do feel free to say hello or have a chat if there is anything you would like to discuss. We are always looking for new people to join the governing body, so if you would like to find out more about how you might be able to help, don't hesitate to get in touch!

Helen Foreman

Staff - currently a Teaching Assistant
(in a former life - before children - I was a Management Account in the NHS)

The vacancy arose for a non-teaching member of the Governing Body when the previous incumbent moved on to pastures new. Before applying, I seriously considered the post, the commitment, and had an informal chat with the Chair of the Governing body.





Debbie Knott
Co-Opted Governor

I was a teacher at St Oswald's for fourteen years before taking early retirement in July 2019 to give me more flexibility and the opportunity to travel with my bike. I taught in Reception and KS1 and have always been passionate about the best provision for our youngest pupils.

I was honoured to be asked to become a governor. It enables me to use my experience to continue to support the school. I also enjoy returning to the school to teach in different year groups on a supply basis.

Terence McDonough
Foundation Ex-Officio

As the Vicar of St Oswald's Fulford I have the privilege of being a Foundation Governor.

One of the strengths and challenges of St Oswald's school is that the school reflects the different communities that make up the parish. With the links I have with the church, school and Imphal Barracks I have been encouraged by the partnerships that are being developed that will enrich the life and values the school seeks to promote.



Kevin Merrison
Co-Opted Governor

I volunteered to become a Governor so I could support the community using my governance and change management skills. After an interview with the Local Authority and an introduction to St Oswald's governors, it was agreed my skill set and military background were a good fit and I became a governor in Mar 2018. The first part of my working career in the military serving with the Royal Air Force, the United Nations and NATO. Settled in York since 2013, I have completed a master's degree and became a Fellow of the Chartered Management Institute. I'm now a small property developer and occasional business consultant. While experienced with working with boards and committees in small and large organisations, I have had little experience with the running of schools. That said, with three children of my own, the youngest now aged 12, attending over 20 different schools between them, my wife and I have had plenty of school/parent interaction which will probably prove the most valuable experience of all. I aim to support my fellow governors, the schoolteachers, parents and pupils in achieving a balanced, sustainable and positive education.

Lata Narayanaswamy

Parent Governor

I am a Lecturer in International Development in the School of Politics and International Studies (POLIS) at the University of Leeds.

As a parent to two children, one has now progressed to Fulford and the other in the school, I was very excited to think I might be able to contribute to the school and the community when a Parent Governor vacancy was announced. I believe that educating children well is one of the most important collective investments we can make as a society.



Laura Powell

Co-opted Governor

Academic Deputy Head in the Independent Secondary Sector

I had been thinking for a couple of years that I would like to get involved in governance at a primary level, and submitted my name and details forward through the SGOSS scheme with the intention of being paired with a local school. This happened to coincide with a request from the previous Chair of Governors, with whom I work, who contacted our Headmaster to ask whether anyone would be interested in putting their name forward to be considered as a co-opted governor at St Oswald's. After a preliminary chat with the Chair of Governors, and a visit to the school to meet Mr Griffiths, I formally put my name forward and was accepted.



Shirley Priestley

Co-opted Governor (Vice Chair)

I considered becoming a governor as an interested parent in my children's education and after seeing an article in my professional magazine highlighting the shortage of finance-oriented governors within schools. The difficulties schools face through the funding formulae and how they balance the books as well as deliver first class teaching was something of a mystery to me and hoped my skills as a qualified accountant would be useful. Now in my second term, I continue to aim to make a positive contribution to the governance within school along with my fellow governors.

I am also a parent with one child who has now progressed to Fulford and another in KS2.





Jemma Ramsay

Associate Governor (Deputy Head Teacher)

After teaching at St Oswald's for several years, I wanted to further my professional development by gaining an understanding of how the school is governed. I expressed my interest to Mr Griffiths and made a request to the board of governors to become an associate governor.

Helen Rodbourn

Co-Opted Governor

I have been a governor since the autumn of 2013. I had just retired and was approached by the then Chair of Governors to see if I would be interested in becoming a governor at St. Oswald's. I had spent my career in primary schools, firstly as a teacher and then a head teacher for over 20 years, and finally had some spare time to do the things I enjoy such as travelling, reading, listening to music and gardening. However, I couldn't turn down the opportunity to continue my involvement in education and I have been delighted to become part of this vibrant, caring and successful school. I became joint chair of governors from September 2015 to 2019 and I hope that my knowledge and experience will be useful in supporting the head teacher and her staff to steer a course through all the challenges and changes that face the education sector.



Matt Walker

Parent Governor

Researcher

I had been thinking about becoming a governor for a while, when the school circulated a letter saying a vacancy had become available for a parent governor. I thought I had nothing to lose and so decided to put in an application letter. To my surprise and delight I was selected! I have found that being a governor can be time consuming – there are quite a lot of meetings (depending on how many sub-committees you decide to join) and there is a lot of documentation to read as well as training. But it's a great group of people, and I'm continually impressed by the staff who are really doing a fantastic job for our children. I would recommend governance to anyone considering it!



Andrew Wilson
Co-Opted Governor

After nine year working as an R&D chemist, I spent 30 years teaching chemistry and geology in a sixth form college. During my teaching career I was the teacher governor for several years. I retired from teaching in 2011 and moved to York in 2012 where I now work part time at the Yorkshire Museum and volunteer one day a week at the National Railway Museum. I am keen to use my experience and time to help St Oswald's school continue to provide their pupils with a stimulating and enjoyable educational experience.

