# Meet St Helen's Governing Board – February 2022



**Rob Cockle** Interim Executive **Head Teacher** 



Foundation

Governor





Johanna Baxter Foundation Governor





**Neil Martin** Chair and Parent Governor



Jo Chambers Co-opted Governor



**Kevin Hunt** Vice-Chair and **Parent Governor** 



Co-opted





**Rev David Moss Ex Officio** Foundation Governor



Diane Ponting Co-opted Governor



Kelvin Chappell

Viviana Staiano Co-opted Governor

Julia Macgregor Co-opted Governor Staff Governor

Fiona Kitson

Fran Clarke

David Gordon

Ruxandra Comisel **Ben Fowkes** LA Representative Parent Governor Parent Governor Parent Governor

# Neil Martin – Chair, Partnership Steering Group, Strategic Working Group

I'm a parent governor, with a child in Year 5, and an older child who has now left St Helen's. I was elected as a governor in July 2019, and as Chair I work closely with the senior leaders of the school and hold them to account on educational and financial performance, I help the governing body set a clear vision and direction for the school, and generally I help to keep the governing board functioning effectively.

#### Kevin Hunt - Vice Chair, Partnership Board, Strategic Working Group, Finance & Staffing Committee, Pay Committee.

I'm a parent with children in Year 2 and Year 5 and was selected as a parent governor in September 2019. As well as supporting the School Leadership Team, the Chair and governing body with the strategic direction of the school, I try to offer a perspective of a parent who simply wants to ensure the school does the best it possibly can for our community.

#### **Rev. David Moss - Ex Officio Foundation**

Hi I am David the Vicar. I am excited by my role as ex-officio foundation(church) governor. My responsibilities are to make sure the school continues to be an excellent Church of England School, and to oversee all matters relating to health and safety. I also have first-hand experience of school life as my son attended St Helen's in KS2 and loved it!

#### Rev. Ann Lloyd, Foundation Governor, Partnership Steering Group

I have been a Foundation Governor, appointed by the Diocese, since March 2019. After a varied career in primary school teaching and headship I trained for the priesthood and am now an Associate Local Minister in the North Severnside Benefice. Fostering the school's Christian ethos and encouraging links between the local church and the school are part of my remit together with curriculum development and taking assemblies from time to time. My children are now adult and I have two grandchildren, a Year 4 and a Year 8, who help me keep up-to-date with young people.

#### **Ben Fowkes – Parent Governor**



## David Gordon – Parent Governor

I am parent governor who joined the governing board in November 2021. My son is in reception class. I sit on the finance committee and also oversee health and safety at the school. Outside of governors I work for Nationwide Building Society on their digital banking team and in my spare time I'm and avid cricket fan.

# Diane Ponting – EYFS, Data, Co-opted Governor

Hi, my name is Diane and I'm the Local Authority Governor at St Helen's. I work in school place planning at South Gloucestershire Council, ensuring sufficient places are available across the authority. I have two children, one in year 5 and one who's recently started at Marlwood. I have been a Governor for over four years and am currently involved in the catch up funding and how it is being used.

## Emily Stephens – Chair Curriculum & Standards, SEND, Foundation Governor

I have two children in the school in Reception and Year 2. I joined the Governing body in July 2020 because I wanted to use my skills as a secondary school Maths teacher to help St Helen's develop and grow, particularly after the Ofsted visit in 2019. Being a Governor has allowed me to get a great perspective on what happens in school and I really enjoy the opportunity to chat with staff, students and other Governors about what our school does well and what we can improve further. I am Chair of the Curriculum and Standard committee which means that I work closely with other Governors to ensure that the school is providing children with a broad and balanced curriculum and that they are ensuring that children make as much progress as they can. As SEND Governor I work with specific school leaders to evaluate our provision in those parts of the school and look for ways we can continue to improve.

#### Fiona Kitson – Staff Governor

Hi, I'm Fiona Kitson and I'm a Teaching Assistant at St Helen's. My link with the school goes back to 2004 when my son started in reception and I was a parent helper, before joining the staff in 2014. I'm currently mainly in Reception but I'm also fortunate to get to work with children across the school through outdoor learning which is one of my passions.

## Fran Clarke – LA Governor and Safeguarding

#### Jo Chambers – Co-opted Governor, Curriculum and Standards Committee

I'm Jo Chambers and I'm I co-opted governor. I'm also a parent to a child in Year 5 and have a son at secondary school who also attended St. Helen's. My responsibilities are Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) and Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE). I am a member of the Curriculum and Standards Committee. I'm a SEN teacher and advisor in my professional life and when I have time I enjoy spending time with my family, music, gardening, and creative arts such as fused glass.

#### Johanna Baxter – Foundation Governor, Pay, Curriculum & Standards, Training and Website

I joined in November 2020 as a parent governor, as I have a child in Year 5. in January 2022 I became a Foundation Governor. I previously sat on the Finance and staffing committee and have moved to Curriculum & Standards as the OPAL play scheme falls into this group and I am the lead Governor for OPAL. I am responsible for updating our governor pages from September 2021 and monitor Governor Training. Being able to support school is so important as well as supporting my fellow governors to ensure that St Helen's can be the best it can be.

#### Julia Macgregor – I am Maths, Data and Co-opted Governor.

My two children have been through St Helen's and are now at Marlwood. I have been a governor at St Helen's since 2013. I am a member of the Curriculum and Standards Committee, Strategic Working Group and have responsibilities for Maths and Data. I also volunteer at the school helping in year 6 with maths.

#### Kate Masters – Co-opted Governor

I have two children at St Helen's and have been a parent governor here for about 4 years. Within the governing body I have responsibility for reading and phonics and am particularly interested in school activities that promote a love of reading. I aim to meet with subject leads three times per year to find out the plans, achievements and progress in relation to this area of the curriculum. I have recently taken on responsibility with the Governing body for monitoring attendance. I sit on the Curriculum and Standards sub committee and also the Strategic Working Group.

# Ruxandra Comisel - Parent Governor, Finance & Staff Committee

# Viviana Staiano – Co-opted Governor, Chair of Finance and Staffing

I am Viviana and I am a co-opted governor. I also have a child in Year 3 at St Helen's and I live in Alveston. I was elected in September 2020, and as I have many years of experience working in the finance sector I am part of the finance committee and the payroll committee.

# Anne Tearle – Clerk