



Meet the Governors

Members of the Governing Board

Mrs Caroline Fisher (Budd), Mrs Charlotte Davis, Mrs Mel Fitter (Chair), Miss Nicole Fowles, Mrs Rebecca Gathercole, Mrs Judith Izzard, Mrs Maria O'Neill, Mr Narinder Singh, Mrs Zoe Smyth, Ms Sarah Vogel (Vice Chair), Ms Cathie Whiting
Clerk to the Governing Body/Admin – Ms Emma Woodhouse (Attingham Education - Governor Hub)

Melanie Fitter – Chair of Governors (Co-opted Governor)

Occupation: I am a qualified Accountant working in a commercial organisation as Head of Financial Reporting and Control

Hobbies and Interests: Spending time with my family, walking, dining out and retail therapy

Personal Statement: I initially joined the Governing Body of Coleshill Heath as both of my children were attending the school and I therefore had a vested interest in how the school was run and the education of my children and others. Several years on, I recognise that I have some valuable skills to bring to the table in order to support the Leadership Team with the running of the school. My role at work is to provide accurate financial reporting, forecast cash requirements, provide finance expertise, and deliver accurate forecasting and budgeting. So, whilst I do not have an Education background (aside from my own days at school, college, professional education, and latterly university as I have recently completed an MBA), I now have 10 years of governance experience as well as commercial acumen, leadership skills, and many years of experience in senior Finance roles.

Nicole Fowles – Headteacher (Ex Officio)

Occupation: Headteacher - Coleshill Heath School

Hobbies and Interests: Reading, Writing Poetry, Travel and Coaching

Personal Statement: As Headteacher and Governor of Coleshill Heath School, I am very proud of our school journey. It is an exciting time as we continually focus on improving outcomes for pupils and as a result of our ethos and learning culture we are now impacting upon progress measures and moving forward to ensure that all children receive the best possible education. Having worked across different authorities and in various leadership roles, I am passionate and dedicated to the field of education. More recently, I have been working strategically across the borough in various school improvement projects. My particular areas of interest are educational leadership, professional learning and curriculum development.

I am now able to share my skills and knowledge to bring about sustainable improvement. Working closely with other governors and colleagues across the system, allows for mutual challenge and support – this also impacts my own professional learning journey. Working in collaboration means we always strive to be the best we can and ultimately make a difference to the lives of children.

Over time, we continue to refine our strategic direction as a Governing Body and consistently reflect and evaluate on our own effectiveness in a bid to secure that continuous improvement. Being a governor across phases adds another dimension to school leadership as it provides an opportunity to consider both short and long term priorities in order to sustain and improve the work that we do from an objective point of view.

Caroline Fisher (Budd) – Deputy Headteacher (Staff Governor)

Occupation: Deputy Headteacher - Coleshill Heath School

Hobbies and Interests: Travelling, walking, reading, skiing and spending time with my family

Personal Statement: I have spent most of my teaching career at Coleshill Heath School and am dedicated to making a difference to the lives of children in North Solihull. I am proud to have been part of our journey of improvement and continue to be committed to improving the outcomes for our children.

I am enjoying working with a range of other professionals and parents to ensure the needs of our SEN and High Needs children are effectively met.

As a mum myself, I am hugely passionate about working with parents and involving them in school life and I am excited developing our Parent Voice Team.

Judith Izzard (Co-opted Governor)

Occupation: Billing Co-ordinator/Legal Secretary, Eversheds-Sutherland LLP

Hobbies and Interests: Supporting my sons at football and cricket matches, walks with our dog, listening to music, musical theatre, reading and socialising with friends and family.

Personal Statement: I've worked in many secretariat and administrative roles through my career and I am a good co-ordinator, organising projects and time management, working independently or equally as a team.

I have previously been involved in managing large clients working closely with legal partners and managers and have good PC and spreadsheet skills.

I currently manage a billing division for various client's property management and legal matters and have a good background in finance matters.

I value family life and as a mother of two teenagers, I am proud of their progress and development, who having had a great start in life attending CHS, are now doing well and continuing their education at Coleshill School and beyond. The development of children through good education is paramount to me and I would like the opportunity to be able to give back, and in this regard, CHS meets my values and vision. Involving parents in their children's education and allowing them a voice is important and I would be happy to support in these and other areas.

Maria O'Neill (Co-opted Governor)

Occupation: Pastoral Leader, Director @PastoralOrg

Hobbies and Interests: Figure-skating, walking, gardening, theatre visits, travel

Personal Statement: It is a privilege to serve as a Governor at Coleshill Heath School and support the school on its exciting journey.

Throughout my career I have held a number of academic leadership roles: I have worked as Head of Department, led Heads of Departments within the Federation, worked as an Advanced Skills Teacher/Senior Leader leading Heads of Departments within the School and Senior Leaders within our feeder schools. I believe in excellence without excuses when pupils are empowered to take risks, learn from failure, and develop independent learning skills.

My leadership philosophy is that it is important to bridge the gap between the pastoral and the academic; pastoral work underpins everything we do as learning organisations. I have held many pastoral roles: eSafety coordinator, Head of PSHCE, Head of Careers (CEIAG), Designated Safeguarding Lead, Deputy Head Wellbeing within the schools, as well as supported pastoral leaders outside the school walls providing supervision and coaching, delivering training as well as working with Universities on postgraduate pastoral courses.

I am a doctorate researcher and author of *Proactive Pastoral Care: Nurturing Happy, Healthy and Successful Learners*.

Narinder Singh (Co-opted Governor)

Occupation: Professional Services Engineer (Team Lead)

Hobbies and Interests: walking, cycling and spending quality time with family

Personal Statement: I am working as an IT Team Lead at Qcom Ltd. It's a managed service provider based in London, with offices in UK, Europe and Asia. I completed my studies in India and decided to specialise in IT. My passion for Information Technology developed after graduation and I have never looked back since. I have worked in local authority schools since 2003, progressing through various IT management roles. I want to bring in my strengths and experience of how effective IT support can impact teaching and learning in an education setting. This is my first opportunity as a Co-opted School Governor and I am keen to see the progress, innovation and successful integration of new technological advancements to benefit the future of CHS children.

Sarah Vogel – Deputy Chair of Governors (Co-opted Governor)

Occupation: Managing Director of People Development Associates Ltd

Hobbies and Interests: I am one of those people who can never think what to write under 'hobbies' but I do enjoy live comedy, crafting, baking, films and travel. I volunteer as a tea party host with a charity called Re-engage (formerly Contact the Elderly). I also volunteer with Anawim, (a charity based in Birmingham which supports vulnerable women), running confidence courses.

Personal Statement: I've been working in learning and development since 1989 but have never actually been a teacher in a school! However, my work brings me into contact with a huge variety of clients across all sectors, including education, and this has given me a very broad perspective on the challenges faced by leaders in 21st century organisations.

Over the last 25 years I have developed skills in one-to-one and group coaching, and as well as being MD of my own business, I have a busy executive coaching practice, working with senior leaders, entrepreneurs, business owners, executives and senior teams. I'm also fortunate to have developed my facilitation, conference speaking, performance improvement and consulting skills all of which I am willing and able to bring to the role of school governor.

In life, but also as a governor, I am passionate about being of practical help, and am keen to balance my support and challenge in as useful a way as possible, towards the Head, the Senior Leadership Team and the staff team at CHS if required. I also think I provide a useful 'outsiders' perspective on issues.

I love being a governor, knowing that I am part of a team who are supporting and challenging the people who support and challenge the children, and that is a fantastic privilege.

Cathie Whiting (Co-opted Governor)

Occupation: Retired Primary Teacher

Hobbies and Interests: Reading, gardening, art, petanque, walking and spending time with family and friends

Personal Statement: I have just retired after working for 22 years as a primary school teacher – a vast proportion of which was at Coleshill Heath School. I had previously trained as a social worker and specialised in child protection, working for SSD and the NSPCC, where I managed a therapeutic unit for children who had been abused.

I am currently starting a voluntary role as a Literacy Specialist for a charity which teaches adults to read. I am also attending an art course in botanical drawing and doing some voluntary gardening under the guidance of a qualified horticulturalist. I am a firm believer in life-long learning.

As a parent (and new grandparent) I have always aimed to ensure that the education I am involved in and delivering is of the highest quality and what I would want my child to receive.

I have spent my entire working life working with and for children and passionately believe in their right to a happy, safe and engaging education. CHS has gone on an incredible journey to make this a reality for all its pupils and as a Governor I see myself as still having an influence and input to this.

Rebecca Gathercole (Local Authority Governor)

Occupation: Assistant Headteacher

Hobbies and Interests: Spending time with my family, walks with my dog, netball Mum!

Personal Statement: As a teacher in a special school I am passionate about teaching and learning and ensuring that for all of our children, the world is their oyster! Over the years I have enjoyed various roles that include leading the Early Years Foundation Stage, working with children with complex medical and behavioural needs, children with Autism and communication difficulties/sensory differences, and most recently a pastoral role supporting parents and families holistically. I'm hoping my knowledge and skills, especially those of special education, can be of some use to CHS.

Charlotte Davis (Parent Governor)

Occupation: Assistant in a Toy Shop

Hobbies and Interests: I enjoy reading, music and gaming

Personal Statement: I am very passionate about children's development. I have worked in a toy shop for 10 years where regular training modules on children's development and specialist areas such as how to engage with children with sensory needs or other additional needs through play are key.

I have previous qualifications in health and social care where social and psychology studies were essential. I am very happy with the school as it offers so much in the way of extra-curricular activities which given the current climate is excellent for inclusion. I would use my positive attitude and excellent communication skills to work with the school to think of innovative ideas and improve ideas already in place.

Zoe Smyth (Parent Governor)

Occupation: Special Educational Needs Specialist

Hobbies and Interests:

Personal Statement: I have an interest in children's mental health and special educational needs and disability (SEND). I have 2 children currently in school and when the chance to become a governor came up I jumped at it.

Being a SEND specialist in my job, and having a child with ADHD and Autism, working with a school to ensure inclusivity for all children is something I am hugely passionate about. Being a parent allows me to be the voice of other parents within the school.

My career has afforded me with many skills allowing me to support the leadership team within school. Whilst I do not have a background in education, I am experienced in children's mental health and know how important it is to teach children coping strategies from a young age that they will be able to use into adulthood.