Meet the Governors – Biographies.

Charlotte Clay

I am a new governer to Hanslope Primary School, I have lived in Hanslope for just over 6 years.
I currently have 3 children attending Hanslope school, one in year 6, one in year 3 and my youngest in reception.
I have worked in a managerial role in the private childcare sector, graduating as an Early Years Professional (EYP).
I have been on the committee of Hanslope Pre School when my children attending there, with one year as Chairperson, supporting the pre-school during their Ofsted Inspection.
By becoming a governer I hope to utilise my skills and experiencw by offering support and involvement in the schools strategic direction, becoming actively involved.

Frances Duck

Safeguarding Governor

Link Governor: English and SEN/Equality/Mastery

I have lived in Hanslope for over 30 years and been associated with the school for nearly as many. Both my children attended the school and gained much from the friendly, caring and supportive learning experience they enjoyed there. I joined the governing board as I wanted to continue to support such a good school and have been privileged to work alongside an amazing group of fellow governors and committed members of staff for so many years.

In my professional life, I am a teacher of Special Educational Needs in a primary setting and have a particular interest in ensuring full accessibility of the curriculum to all the children in the school. I also hold a strong belief that maintaining good mental and physical health plays a key role in children being ready to learn and achieving goals and have experience in tutoring and running specific courses to assist children with strategies for dealing with worry and anxiety.

My family members share a wide range of interests including enjoying most types of sport, travelling, growing things (we have an allotment in the village) and making all manner of things - chiefly out of wood.

Catherine Jackson

I have been at Hanslope Primary for seven years and currently teach in Year Five. I have taught for over twenty-five years, across all primary age ranges. Throughout my career, I consider it to be a privilege to encourage both the educational, social, physical and emotional development of children. I couldn’t imagine doing anything else.

As a teacher governor, I believe that it is important to continue to maintain the high standards of the school. It is my intention to use my experience of the day to day running of a classroom and working as part of a number of teams, to support the governing body.

When I am not working, I thoroughly enjoy spending time with my family and friends. I have also been an avid runner for many years.

Stuart Johnston

I started my tenure as parent Governor in September 2021, coinciding with my son starting Reception and our move to the village earlier this year. It has been fantastic getting to know the community and I decided that I wanted to be a part of the school’s development over the longer term.

I earn my living as a Director within a global advertising agency, working with large teams and clients to input into board meetings, pitches, annual planning of advertising budgets and ultimately problem solving. I am fortunate to have flexibility in my day that allows me to play a leading role in my son’s schooling. I believe my Commercial experience is highly transferable to being a Governor, not only the critical role in holding the school leadership to account as a voice of the parents but also supporting the fantastic work that they and the teaching community do to provide a safe, enriching and happy environment for children.

At the time of writing, I have thrown myself into the Governor role, learning about the safeguarding and wellbeing responsibilities of the school and Governor community and I am hugely excited to make a meaningful impact within the school via my responsibility and contribution as it embarks on an exciting next chapter following growth in the local area. I have seen first-hand how committed and how hard staff, fellow Governors and the leadership team work and am equally passionate to support Hanslope Primary, not only for my son but also for your children and the wider community.

Lisa Lawrence

I have been a teacher at Hanslope for over 20 years and have recently become the Deputy Head. I enjoy every day here at Hanslope and think that Hanslope is a fantastic school where staff are passionate about educating children to the highest standard and all pupils are treated as individuals.

Throughout my career I have worked within Key Stage One. My current role is working in the Early Years Foundation Stage. Working in the Early Years Foundation Stage allows me to get to know all the children and parents as they start Hanslope and watch them grow throughout the school until they leave as well-rounded individuals for Secondary School.

I believe that our Governing Body work hard to promote our values and ethos and maintain our extremely high standards.

When I am not at work I enjoy spending time with my family.

Beth Metcalf

Link Govenor: Art, DT and Early Years

I am a new Governor to Hanslope Primary school, with a background in Children’s Social Care, Early years and Education.  I am a Foster Carer for children in Milton Keynes and wanted to support the fantastic work teachers do for our young people in Milton Keynes. I am currently Director of Membership Services at the Open University Students Association, and so I see everyday the importance and value to education.  My main passions in work and life is to remove barriers to inclusion and playing rugby.  I love a range of team sports and enjoy seeing children engage in sports and hobbies for enjoyment, wellbeing and making friends too!

Helen Pakes

Vice Chair

Link Govenor: Key Stage Leaders, Mental Health and Wellbeing, Music and PSHE

I became a parent governor in January 2017, and my son attended Hanslope School from 2012 to 2019. In October 2020, when my parent governor term of office ended, I was co-opted to the Board of Governors. We have lived in Hanslope since 2008, although my husband has long-standing family connections with the village. I am a forensic psychologist by profession. I used to manage a team of psychologists at Woodhill Prison and I have experience of strategic decision making and performance improvement in the Prison Service. For 10 years I was a psychologist member of the Parole Board. I completed my tenure with the Parole Board in September 2020 and started a part-time PhD at the University of Birmingham, exploring the role of empathy in the rehabilitation of violent offenders. I work part-time in the Learning Disability / Autistic Spectrum Disorder division at St Andrew’s Hospital in Northampton and I am also an associate lecturer in criminology and psychology at the University of Northampton. As a school governor, I have responsibility for mental health and well-being, and PSHE, and I aim to use my knowledge and experience of applied psychology to ensure that Hanslope School is a happy and healthy community for all its members. I am a member of St James’ Church and Haversham Sailing Club, where my son is a very enthusiastic junior sailor. In my spare time I play cornet with MK Brass.

Melissa Scott

Development Govenor

In late 2021 I became a co/opted governor here at Hanslope Primary school having spent 4 previous years as a parent governor.

I have 2 children attending the school across both ks1 and ks2.

My professional skills are within Human Resources operating at a senior management level. I have both private and public sector experience. I am also a committee member of Friends of Hanslope School

I believe the role of parent governor is a unique opportunity to provide an independent eye over the workings of the school. I am of the view that with parents, carers and school working collaboratively we can ensure that children receive the best possible education.

I am passionate about making a positive contribution and my personal focus is driven by the desire to enable all pupils access to those high quality learning opportunities in an inclusive environment.

As a member of the governing body team we work in the background to hold the leadership team accountable whilst making a strategic contribution. Hanslope primary has high standards and I am committed to working with the team, together we can drive continuous improvement in all we do to meet whatever future challenges we may face.

Sarah Shakespeare

Link Governor: Geography and MFL

I am a Parent Governor at the school and have three children; one of whom attends Hanslope Primary School in Year 4 . This gives me a good first-hand insight into how the school delivers the curriculum and the experience of a parent at the school. I currently work in Finance and previously worked in Education Recruitment for12 years, supporting schools in appointing temporary and permanent Teaching and Support Staff. This gives me a unique insight into a range of educational settings. Through this role as an Education Recruitment Business Manager, I have direct experience of the financial constraints on schools. Coupled with a good knowledge of Special Educational Needs within schools' settings; recently completing a CACHE qualification in Young People and Mental Health. Being a school governor is a great opportunity to volunteer my time to contribute to the operation of the school and support the staff delivering care and education to our community.

Martin Small

Link Govenor: History and Mathematics

I’ve been a governor at Hanslope ever since out three sons were at school. They had a brilliant time and I wanted to give something back. It gives a real buzz to help new groups of children enjoy Hanslope and get a good start in education.

Retired from full-time work, I use my experience with budgets in the Resources Committee. Around 85% of the School’s budget is staffing so we use that to get the best possible staff. I’ve also been involved in new buildings and have been helping shape the new extension which will see the school grow to around 400 children.

Pre-covid, I’ve seen just how much the visits and residential trips outside the school are enjoyed by the children and help them to develop their independence and knowledge of the wider world.

Nigel Stacey

Chair

Link Govenor: PE, RE and SMSC

Our family connection with Hanslope School started over thirty years ago when our two daughters attended the school. My first involvement was with Friends of Hanslope School, the highlight of which was when as chairman we had a farming themed fun day which was opened by a cast member from the Archers! I went onto to become a Parent Governor and my wife Sarah was a founder of the 3 2 6 club. I am currently fortunate enough to be chair of the governing board, which gives me the privilege of seeing the school function at a strategic level, as well as contact with staff, parents and of most importantly the pupils. The school is dynamic and aspirational and I feel honoured  to be part of this and what we try to achieve.

Ben Wheeler

Responsibilites: Computing and Science

My Partner Susan and I, along with our 2 boys, have lived in Hanslope for 10 years and very much enjoy being part of this village and community.

I have been privileged to be a Governor of Hanslope School now for 7 years, having watched my elder son Ted grow and develop from Reception class onwards, before leaving well prepared for secondary school just last year. I now only have my younger son Tom at the school, enjoying his last 2 years at Hanslope.

As a Governor I chair the School Curriculum Committee and also attend our Resources Committee meetings (covering both Finance and Premises issues). I have a particular interest in the Sciences and IT and so have these as areas of responsibility within the Governing body as well.

The Wheelers are a bit of a rugby family, we had to be, as until very recently, we dare not tell anyone we support Aston Villa. Both our boys play Rugby pretty much every weekend and train during the week when possible. We therefore have all the right clothing for standing on cold winters days in sideways rain, supporting and encouraging them both, whilst rubbing their bruises and shouting encouragement over the noise of gale force winds.

 Away from this domestic bliss, I am the UK MD of a German manufacturer supplying furniture solutions to corporate offices. But that is really just to pay the bills, and…. Susan bakes absolutely delicious cakes.