Meet the Governors – Biographies.

Jane Fox

I have been a teacher at Hanslope for about ten years now and can honestly say that I thoroughly enjoy each day. I have been a staff governor for 5 years. I think (and I might be biased!) that Hanslope is an amazing school where the staff care passionately about educating each child as a whole. I have been fortunate to work widely across both Key stages from Year 1 to Year 6 and lots in-between. We aim for children to leave us well rounded individuals and able to flourish in our diverse society. 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.

Helen Pakes

I became a parent governor in January 2017, and my son attended Hanslope School from 2012 to 2019. 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 have recently completed my tenure with the Parole Board and have started a part-time PhD at the University of Birmingham, exploring the role of empathy in the rehabilitation of violent offenders. I am also an associate lecturer in criminology at the University of Northampton, and I work as an expert witness, undertaking psychological assessments of individuals for court. As a school governor, I have responsibility for mental health and wellbeing 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

I am a parent governor here at Hanslope Primary school and have 2 children in 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.

Martin Small

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.

Ben Wheeler

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.