



Our Governors

As the headteacher of the federation Nanette Allies is a member of the governing board.

Ian Satchwell - Chair of Governors

When:

I joined the board of Governors in February 2022, having applied for such a role towards the end of 2021. In April 2023 I was elected Chair of Governors, a role I feel honoured to fill.

Why:

Like many others with the time and opportunity to do so, Covid prompted me to volunteer for roles which would hopefully help reduce its impact and extent.

I enjoyed volunteering and discovered that my business skills which included management of people and resources, combined with extensive training, mentoring and coaching experience could all be put to use in very different environments.

About me:

I am married and my wife and I live in Barton on Sea, we are both avid golf, if not particularly skilful, players. I also enjoy walking and music in its many formats. Our own children have long since left education behind, but we have a set of Grandchildren from Kindergarten to Year 12 in their respective schools.

Maria Speirs

When:

I joined the governing body as a parent governor at Burley in 2014 when my three children were at Burley, after moving from London to the New Forest. I became a federation co-opted governor in 2018.

Why:

I became a governor when the Headteacher resigned, and I wanted to be a part of the school's future. I wanted to learn more about the school and how things worked and use my skills to implement changes and improvements. I believe that as governors we put the children in our schools at the heart of every decision we make.

About me:

Having worked in the hospitality industry for a number of years, I enjoy working with people and being part of a team. I have varied work experience in the areas of recruitment, budget setting, team management and I am especially good at making and serving tea and cake - all useful skills for being a part of the governing body!

Colin Floyd

When:

I joined the federation of Burley and Sopley Schools on the 1st of January 2022 as the Caretaker / Site Manager. Later I applied to be a school governor.

Why:

I have worked in Education for 48 years. I have worked in a number of schools in Southampton and Hampshire from small primary schools to large secondary schools and sixth form colleges.

I was until my retirement a Project Manager for Southampton City Council delivering a wide portfolio of building projects to improve and increase the capacity of a large number of schools. This involved managing substantial capital funded government allocations.

About me:

I am committed to offering my support to the schools and like to volunteer as a school governor promoting and developing the schools. In my time great improvements have been made to the facilities and I take great pride in my support of them.

Laura Favaro:

When:

I joined the Board of Governors in June 2023, after being elected as Parent Governor.

Why:

Years ago, I trained both as a primary and a secondary school teacher. After teaching at different primary schools, I left the sector to pursue a career in academia because I am passionate about research. Still, there is a lot about my days as a schoolteacher that I miss! This role allows me to continue to contribute to my commitment for joyful, supportive, and stimulating school environments. Furthermore, my two children attend Sopley, and have most of their primary education ahead of them, so I have every interest in ensuring the school is the very best it can be.

About me:

I am currently Lecturer in Social Science at Bournemouth University, which means I spend my workdays teaching, researching, and writing – precisely my passions! But I also love spending time in nature, practising yoga, cuddling our cats, and, to save the most precious for last, simply being with my fabulous family.

Bethany Bennett-Smith

When:

I joined the governing body as a federation co-opted Governor in May 2023.

Why:

Since my eldest started at Burley Primary in 2017 I have been heavily involved with volunteering and fundraising for the school. In my son's first year I volunteered with the Burley Primary School Association, moving into different roles within the charity over the years including Secretary and Chair. The Governor role felt like a natural progression for me as I felt it would enable me to deepen my understanding and learn more about the schools from another aspect. I care deeply and am extremely passionate about the schools, their future, and the pupils of the federation. My hope is to help the schools, alongside their brilliant team of staff, to be the best they can be.

About Me:

I have two children at Burley Primary. My youngest is currently in Year 1 and my eldest is in year 6. I love meeting new people and have been involved in various charity work and roles over the last few years. I enjoy being creative, singing and spending time with my family.

Peter Egerton

When:

I am recently retired and have been a school governor for three years now.

Why:

I have lived in Burley for the past 26 years.

About Me:

My main hobby was motorsport which has taken me all over the UK, across Europe and to New Zealand. I also enjoy mountain biking around the forest in all weathers. I have been a member of Burley Golf Club for over 20 years and run the junior section with the help of a number of volunteers.

Claire Bleakley

When:

I joined the governing body in May 2016 when the federation was first formed, originally as a co-opted governor and now as a staff governor. I've been part of the team at Sopley Primary school for over seven years as a class teacher and have been Inclusion Lead and SENDCo for the federation now for over three years.

Why:

As the staff governor for the Federation of Burley and Sopley Primary Schools I hope to continue to use my professional experience to support the development of the federation and ensure good education for all children. My previous roles include being Math lead, senior leader of a large inner-city primary school

in London, KS2 SATs marker for over eight years and the chair of a local pre-school committee. I enjoy working in a team, problem solving and moving learning forward. I believe every child has the right to achieve their full potential, have any barriers to learning supported and be encouraged to develop confidence and individuals as they journey through primary school.

About me:

I have been a teacher for over twenty years and was a staff governor in a previous school in South-East London. In that role I enjoyed the opportunity of being a voice for my colleagues and playing a role in developing the links between staff and governors to ensure all children had the best opportunity to learn and left the school equipped with skills for life.

Lucy Thomas

When:

I joined the governing body as a co-opted governor in 2022.

Why:

My eldest joined Burley Primary School in September 2021 and I wanted to learn more about the federation and how best to support it moving forward. I wholeheartedly believe in the power of community, so for me, being a governor is practising what I preach.

About me:

I am first and foremost a mother to my two beautiful children. I also support families through the monumental experience of birth and early parenthood in my role as a doula. Perhaps more pertinent to my position as a governor is over ten years' experience in the NHS. This means I am used to sitting with the challenges that come with being part of a public sector organisation and also have the privilege of seeing the very best of people and the way many in the public sector give tirelessly.

Outside my many roles, I enjoy dance, poetry, and crochet.

Sian-Elen Fernhough

When:

I have had the privilege of being a Governor for nearly 10 years, initially at Sopley Primary School and now with the Federation. My two youngest children attended Sopley, enjoying all the benefits of a village school, not least in their opinion, the two-minute walk from home to school!

Why:

I was a Primary School Teacher, mostly in London, for a decade before having children and understand the importance of a safe, secure, and happy environment to enable children to thrive and learn from whatever background they come from. I also helped run a Mums and Tots group in Ringwood for many years reminding me of the value of communication and being part of a local community.

About me:

I am fortunately able to commit time and energy to being a Governor and find it fascinating to view and participate in the life of the schools from a slightly different position, whilst enjoying the wonderful individuality of children and the uniqueness of the schools within the county of Hampshire.

Chris Walter

When:

I was elected as a Parent Governor to the Federation in 2017 when my two children were at Burley Primary School. I became chair of the Finance committee in 2018 and vice-chair of the Full Governing Board in 2019. As my children have now left Burley, I am a co-opted Governor.

Why:

A vacancy for parent governor came up at a time when I was becoming concerned about the funding for small, local, village schools like ours. I became a governor to see if I could make a difference and help secure the future for our schools.

About Me:

My family and I moved to Burley about ten years ago, before that we lived in London. My background is in finance and financial consultancy. Before that I worked in academia. I now spend my time taking photographs in the New Forest and around the world - two of my photos in Shappen Cafe! I also enjoy making things from bits of wood.

Stewart Robinson

When:

Parent governor since November 2021.

Why:

Children attend Burley School