

Meet the Governors

Emma Scorer: Co-opted – Chair of Governors

I have dedicated over 20 years to providing leadership, business, finance, and people management services. As a parent with a child attending the school, I am genuinely interested in its success, particularly with its strategic objectives. My involvement in school life has deepened, and I firmly believe in the importance of fostering a strong partnership between parents/carers and the school to ensure the best outcomes for our children.

Serving as a Governor offers valuable insights into the school's operations and allows me to contribute to its development positively. I am committed to making a meaningful impact and ensuring the school continues to thrive and achieve high levels of success.

Gemma Earlam: Co-opted – Vice Chair of Governors

I am the parent of a child in Key Stage 2. I have a personal interest in ensuring the school works well for my daughter and a genuine interest in ensuring the same for others.

My background is in hospitality management, and with 15 years of experience, I have gained a vast skill set, including financial, planning, and communication skills. I aim to use my experience and skills to support the school in continuing to improve and develop, ensuring that children are given maximum opportunities to discover their full potential through education and extracurricular activities. Being a governor at Whitby Heath Primary School is a privilege.

Stuart Wright: – Headteacher

I have worked in education for close to 25 years, and it is a pleasure to return to Whitby Heath as Headteacher. I previously worked at Whitby Heath as Deputy Head for 5 years from 2011, before leaving for my first headship in 2016. It's fair to say that it was a wrench to leave Whitby Heath, and so the opportunity to return in 2023 was one I could not pass up. Over the course of my career, I have worked in schools across 3 local authorities; during this time, I have also worked as an education consultant, working with school leaders across the country. I have been a governor of 4 schools, including a high school, which gave me a thorough understanding of how we can prepare primary children for the next phase of their education.

I am passionate about education, and I especially love learning about the science of how children learn. Working with children every day is a genuine privilege, and I am dedicated to ensuring every child can fulfil their potential.

Jane Swindells: – Staff Governor

I am extremely proud to have worked at Whitby Heath for the past 16 years, first as a TA (Teaching Assistant) and then as an HLTA (Higher-Level Teaching Assistant) in both KS1 and KS2.

I became the Staff Governor in May 2023 because I am passionate about the school and its ability to support children. I have three children who all came to this school and thrived. Therefore, I want to help all children flourish in their learning journey and equip them with our core values, which will help them succeed in life.

I am dedicated to ensuring that children feel happy, safe, and valued in a caring school environment that celebrates efforts and achievements so they can achieve their full potential.

David James: – Co-opted Governor

I am delighted to be a school Governor at Whitby Heath Primary School, working alongside a like-minded team of committed and professional colleagues. I look forward to supporting the school in providing the best outcomes for the children as they strive for continuous improvement in all areas.

I have worked in education for over 20 years, my main areas of expertise being Early Years and Physical Education. I currently operate and oversee a large number of settings, where I work in partnership with local authorities to support and develop strategies to implement high-quality education and childcare throughout the region.

I have a particular passion for Physical Education and believe a strong curriculum should not be a separate agenda. Instead, it should be at the heart of every school in order to support children's well-being and challenge them outside of the classroom. By doing so we are also able to provide breadth and diversity of opportunity across varying contexts to enthuse and equip children to go on to lead healthy, happy and active lives.

Mike Rodgers: – Co-opted Governor

I have been a teacher for 33 years, the last 11 of which were as headteacher of Brookside Primary School in Great Sutton. I started my career working for Kirklees LEA (Yorkshire), where I worked for 7 years. I came back to live in Wirral with my young family, where I am originally from, in 1996. I retired in September 2022, having worked for Cheshire LEA for 26 years.

I am thoroughly enjoying my retirement, but I have also been looking for an opportunity to help a school however I can. When the phone call came from Whitby Heath, I listened very carefully to find out what the philosophy and plans were from the current headteacher to move the school forward. I was very pleased to realise this was the opportunity to use my knowledge and experience to support Whitby Heath. I am looking forward to working with the governing board and all stakeholders.

Marc Windsor: – Parent Governor

It's a pleasure to join the board of governors as a parent governor. I'm passionate about leveraging my skills and experiences to drive the school to support our children throughout their development.

After studying Law at University, I started my career at what is now Lloyds Banking Group. Over the past 19 years, I've held various roles within the bank, including managing regulatory complaints, change management, project management, managing the office of a director, and more recently in incident management.

Ben Roberts-Shaw: – Parent Governor

I am thrilled to join the team at Whitby Heath Primary School. With two children attending this school, I truly value the positive impact the staff and school have on their lives.

I am a business owner with 15 years of experience in business leadership, operational management, and finance. I am confident that my expertise will benefit the school board. I'm passionate about languages, I am bilingual in English and Spanish, having grown up in Spain. After returning to England, I studied Law with European and International Law. I started my career in banking and transitioned to program management and consulting in the utility sector. Throughout my career, I have consistently prioritised learning and development, ensuring colleagues have the time and space to enhance their skills.

Over the years, I have helped build businesses from the ground up, focusing on solving real problems and delivering lasting value. I am excited to bring this approach to Whitby Heath, where I aim to help build upon their vision and continue their impactful legacy.

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